



**SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, December 14, 2023 2:33-4 pm via Zoom

**Attendees**

**Senators** F. Andrew, E. Baniassad, L. Burr (Vice-Chair), J. Cool, D. Dahl, M. Ho (Chair), S. Singh, R. Yada

**Ex Officio** S. Parker

**Guests** A. Greenwood

**Regrets** J. Al Rahmani, B. Bhandar, C. Dai, A. Esteves, B. Gopaluni, X. T. Jiang, E. Kwakkel, R. Ng, S. Razia

**Senate Staff** J. Iverson

**Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement** The meeting of the Senate Library Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 2:33 pm on 14 December 2023 by M. Ho, Chair. M. Ho gave a land acknowledgement.

**Agenda** *That the Senate Library Committee adopts the 14 December 2023 agenda.*

**Carried by general consent.**

**Meeting Minutes** *That the Senate Library Committee approves the 9 November 2023 meeting minutes.*

Moved: L. Burr  
Seconded: E. Baniassad  
**Carried.**

**Business Arising** None.

**University Librarian Update** S. Parker provided the monthly University Librarian update. Highlights included:

- The gallery for the Phil Lind Klondike Gold Rush and Wallace B. Chung and Madeline H. Chung collections is proceeding. A formal opening is expected in mid-April 2024.
- The Library aims to keep its budget stable. If budgetary supplements from the University are reduced, there will be impacts on the Library’s ability to operate. The Provost is aware of the situation.

- S. Parker joined Yan Li, visiting Conservator from Fudan University, as Li repaired some of the Library's Korean and Japanese materials. Li is also learning about Western book and paper repair techniques. More information is here: <https://about.library.ubc.ca/2023/12/05/ga-with-fudan-university-conservator-yan-li/>.
- S. Parker is co-chairing the search for the Deputy University Librarian for the Okanagan Campus Library along with the UBCO Provost. A finalist has been identified. The aim is to onboard the person in early 2024.
- S. Parker is chairing the internal search for Associate University Librarian, Teaching, Learning & Engagement, and Director of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. The committee interviews the finalist next week.
- S. Parker is involved in the search for a new Executive Director of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). The Association is making an offer to the successful candidate. Next year, as past ARL President, S. Parker will negotiate the contract and orient the Executive Director to the organization's governance, rules, and policies.
- The Library is exploring replacing its library management platform (LMP), which is both a catalogue and search tool. The current LMP is 20 years old and needs to be updated. This will be a costly project. The Library is working with UBC IT and the Provost to get approval at the executive level to move forward with a request for information.
- S. Parker recently attended a number of events, including the Canadian Association of Research Libraries fall meeting in Quebec, the BC Electronic Library Network Steering Committee meeting in Vancouver, a memorial event for Phil Lind, the Two-Spirit Coast Salish Mosaic Reveal near the Xwi7xwa Library, and the installation of UBC's new President.
- S. Parker hosted the Library's seasonal luncheon at the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre for more than 150 librarians and library staff.

S. Parker responded to questions about the Library's budget and Law Library.

#### **Fees and Fines for Course Reserves and Equipment Loans**

S. Parker welcomed the guest: Aleteia Greenwood, Associate University Librarian, Research & Scholarship.

A. Greenwood presented two proposals: 1. to increase UBC Library fines and charges; 2. to update UBC Library loan policies.

#### Increase UBC Library fines and charges

A. Greenwood explained the Library eliminated most daily overdue fines for all library users in 2020. The Library's fine structure for print materials has remained unchanged for over 30 years. The Library proposes to increase its fines and charges to reflect the current value of its collection and incentivize the return of high-demand items, ensuring equitable use for all users.

A. Greenwood presented a proposal to increase overdue fines on high-demand items and responded to questions about the new amounts. A discussion ensued with the following key points:

- S. Singh suggested making explicit the fact that library users can request financial assistance and making incremental increases to the fines.
- S. Parker reiterated the overdue fines are only for high-demand items. If users fail to return the items, they are likely impacting folks who cannot afford alternatives.
- A. Greenwood said users do not receive reminders to return short term loan (2-hour, 1 day, 3 days) items but she can see if that is possible within the current and future LMPs.
- S. Parker responded to questions about how fines are spent and suggested the Library draft a fine review schedule for the Committee's consideration.

A. Greenwood presented a proposal to increase lost-item fines and responded to questions about how fines are used, what happens when lost times cannot be replaced, and whether the Library wants found books returned. A discussion ensued with the following key point:

- S. Singh suggested changing the fines for books, media, etc. to \$100-\$400. The Committee supported the suggestion.

A. Greenwood presented a proposal to increase community borrower card fees. The fees have not changed in over 30 years, and the current fee is less than the average cost of a single book. A discussion ensued with the following key points:

- S. Singh did not support doubling the fee for seniors cards. A. Greenwood said the Library does not issue many seniors cards at \$40. S. Singh again suggested making incremental increases.
  - S. Parker suggested the Library could communicate that it is in the process of restructuring fees, and incremental increases are anticipated.
- D. Dahl said if the Library's card fees are below market compared to other universities then there is a rationale for increasing them.

#### Update UBC Library loan policies

A. Greenwood explained the UBC Library must shift the paradigm of collections usage. Stewardship of the physical collections remains important, but the Library wants to prioritize user experience and access. This is intended as an equity, diversity, and inclusion initiative to reduce barriers to collection usage and improve the user experience through simplified policies.

A. Greenwood presented a proposal to institute term loans based on the standard academic calendar. Faculty, students, and staff would all have the same loan period. A. Greenwood provided supporting data showing physical loans by academic year over the past decade, plus an overview of plans for implementation.

J. Iverson summarized the Committee's suggestions and friendly amendments.  
*That the Senate Library Committee approves the UBC Library fines and charges increases and UBC Library loan policies updates as presented.*

Moved: E. Baniassad

Seconded: D. Dahl

**Carried.**

**Topics for Future Meetings**

The Committee did not have time to discuss this item.

**Next Meeting**

Thursday 11 January 2024 2:30-4 pm

L. Burr requested an in-person meeting and library tour. J. Iverson will work with S. Parker to schedule accordingly.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4 pm.