



**SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, March 14, 2024 2:32-4:02 pm via Zoom

Attendees

Senators F. Andrew, E. Baniassad, B. Bhandar, J. Cool, A. Esteves, M. Ho (Chair), S. Singh

Ex Officio S. Parker

Guests K. Kanji, K. Lar-Son, J. Mitchell

Regrets L. Burr (Vice-Chair), D. Dahl, C. Dai, B. Gopaluni, X. T. Jiang, E. Kwakkel, R. Ng, S. Razia, R. Yada

Senate Staff J. Iverson

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement The meeting of the Senate Library Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 2:32 pm on 14 March 2024 by M. Ho, Chair. M. Ho gave a land acknowledgement.

Agenda M. Ho noted the agenda was amended so that the University Librarian Update would follow the other discussions.

That the Senate Library Committee adopts the 14 March 2024 agenda.

Moved: S. Singh
Seconded: S. Parker
Carried.

Meeting Minutes *That the Senate Library Committee approves the 8 February 2024 meeting minutes.*

Moved: J. Cool
Seconded: S. Parker
Carried.

Business Arising J. Iverson noted a final copy of Overdue Fines on High-Demand Items was included in the materials for the record. Members approved the fines via email following a presentation from Alethea Greenwood, Associate University Librarian, Research and Scholarship, at the December 2023 meeting.

X̱wi7x̱wa Library Guest: Kayla Lar-Son, Interim Head & Indigenous Programs Librarian, X̱wi7x̱wa Library

K. Lar-Son presented, “X̱wi7x̱wa Library.” Key points were as follows:

- In 1970, Xwi7xwa began as a small resource room within the Indian Education Resources Center (IERC) to support the BC Native Teachers Association. By 1974, resources topped more than 1000 books, articles, and AV materials. That same year, the Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP) opens. In 1978, the IERC closes and the collection is put in storage. In 1983, NITEP opens a library, the IERC resources are moved to that library, and Dr. Jean Joseph becomes the first NITEP librarian.
- In 1993, the Longhouse at UBC was built, including a library. The name Xwi7xwa was gifted to the library by the chief donor, Bill Bellman, who had been gifted the name by Chief Simon Baker, Squamish. NITEP's library closes and gifts its collection to Xwi7xwa.
- In 1996, the Xwi7xwa catalogue was included in UBC Library's catalogue, but the circulation systems and records remained separate. Within ten years, Xwi7xwa becomes part of the UBC Library circulation system.
- The Xwi7xwa Library and its librarians follow the 4 Rs of the UBC Longhouse: Respect, Relationships, Responsibility, Reverence.
- The Xwi7xwa Library also follows the Hands Forward, Hands Back teaching from the late Elder Tsimilano. The teaching asks folks to join hands with the right palm downwards, to pass teachings on to the younger generation, and the left palm upwards, to think about the ancestors, and to continue the circle of understanding and caring.
- All three librarians at Xwi7xwa are Indigenous and all practice Indigenous librarianship, which unites the discipline of librarianship with Indigenous approaches to knowledge, theory, and research methodology. This librarianship provides culturally relevant collections and services by, for, and with Indigenous peoples, and is grounded in the contemporary realities of Indigenous peoples for aspirations of self-governance and sovereignty.
- The Xwi7xwa Library is internationally renowned for its Indigenous Knowledge Organization (IKO), a locally developed classification and subject heading system to organize material in the collection. The library uses First Nations House of Learning (FNHL) subject headings that follow a standard order of [topic]-[subtopic]-[place]-[chronology], and a provincial variant of the Brian Deer Classification System, developed by Kahnawake librarian, Brian Deer.
- Xwi7xwa provides campus supports ranging from finding resources, readings, and other materials to providing library instruction for classes to purchasing books for research to providing citation support to creating study spaces.
 - Faculty and staff: <https://xwi7xwa.library.ubc.ca/2023/08/15/what-can-x%cc%b1wi7x%cc%b1wa-do-for-faculty-staff/>
 - Students: <https://xwi7xwa.library.ubc.ca/2023/08/15/what-can-x%cc%b1wi7x%cc%b1wa-do-for-faculty-staff/>
- Xwi7xwa Library is open for everyone but has a focus on supporting Indigenous research that has been created by, for, and with Indigenous folks in a good way. Uplifting Indigenous voices is Xwi7xwa's mandate.

- Xwi7xwa also provides community supports ranging from participating in Musqueam's Pride parade to cooking and serving a feast on June 21 to running a seed library and serving lemonade to participating in Kids Take Over UBC to attending the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit march.

K. Lar-Son responded to questions about the extent of Xwi7xwa's community outreach and sharing information about Xwi7xwa resources among faculty.

Members thanked K. Lar-Son for the presentation.

Overnight Study Spaces during Exam Season

Guests: Kamil Kanji, AMS VP Academic & University Affairs; Julie Mitchell, Associate University Librarian & Director, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

J. Mitchell presented, "UBC Library Hours: An overview of process and considerations." Key points were as follows:

- Library hours are determined based on many factors, including academic year dates, gate counts, head counts, and circulation statistics. The Library Heads Team and the University Librarian are consulted before hours are posted online.
- The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre (IKBLC) has even more datapoints to help determine hours, including traffic counters on all doors and software that calculates the occupancy of the building at any given time.
- IKBLC can stay open longer than other branches because of its design. Bookstacks are gated off while with central spaces remain open with only Campus Security staff present.
- IKBLC 2023 occupancy/traffic (winter/fall terms) statistics showed the busiest day was October 11 (5,115 occupants) while the slowest was December 25 (168 occupants).
- IKBLC 2021-2023 exam occupancy statistics showed an average of 110-150 occupants after 11 pm. Given there are 1,282 study seats in the central core, the average occupancy was 11-12%.
- From 2010-2019, IKBLC was open 24/7 during exams. By 3 am, occupancy averaged 6%.
- Key considerations were summarized as follows:
 - Low demand: IKBLC averages 11-12% occupancy in late evening, and drops to 6% by 3 am. There is not enough demand, especially given the additional work required. Even if IKBLC closed at 3 am, busses would no longer be running.
 - Healthy study habits: Keeping the building open 24/7 does not support healthy study habits.
 - Safety: During 24/7 hours, students and community members end up living in the building for a week or more. IKBLC is not equipped to provide overnight accommodations, nor is it safe.
 - Building maintenance: 24/7 hours makes it difficult for custodians to clean the building, and it creates additional mess

and garbage. No amount of funding could be provided for the necessary resources because there is not enough custodial staff.

- Every time 24/7 hours are implemented, the community of unhoused individuals living in IKBLC increases. As this population increases, so too do student complaints.
- During exams, IKBLC is open until 1 am. Statistics show this is a reasonable time to close. The Commuter Student Hostel is recommended should students wish to stay on campus overnight (<https://vancouver.housing.ubc.ca/other-housing/commuter-student-hostel/>).
- Determining library hours is a data-driven process. While the idea of 24/7 hours is popular, years of experience and evidence does not support it.

K. Kanji presented, “24/7 Library Access.” Key points were as follows:

- Background: Peer institutions offer 24/7 study locations on campus during exam season. At UBC, only Henry Angus offers overnight access but it is restricted to Sauder students. Near campus, there are few overnight study spaces. Research shows studying away from home reduces disruptions and increases productivity.
- Accessibility: The UBC Disabilities United Collective supports 24/7 access to IKBLC as a means of increasing the accessibility of the library for disabled and commuting students. Study locations offer free and quiet spaces, outlets, and wi-fi that might not otherwise be available. UBC should offer a choice of study spaces.
- The Ask: Last year, the AMS Student Nest operated 24/7 during exam season, with an average of 122 students accessing per hour and a high of 1,115 students at once. Students were grateful for the extended hours.
- Cost: In December 2023, the cost to keep the Nest open over 12 days was \$6350.40. This included security and maintenance
- Students study 24/7. While those study habits may not be ideal, UBC should provide study spaces that are as healthy as possible. Students need a high-quality study space, which aligns with UBC’s commitments. The AMS is willing to partner with the Library to share costs.

A discussion ensued about the pros, cons, costs, and considerations of keeping IKBLC open 24/7. K. Kanji suggested the AMS and Library put forward a joint request. J. Mitchell emphasized the issue is as relevant to Campus Security and custodial staffing as it is to Library staffing. Even if the Library had the budget, it would not solve the campus-wide staffing issues.

K. Kanji, J. Mitchell, and S. Parker agreed to continue the conversation outside of the meeting and connect with the Vice-President, Students.

University Librarian Update

Given the time remaining, S. Parker provided a truncated update. She said that for the 2024/25 fiscal year, the Library will not receive supplementary funding to

cover inflationary costs to the collection and academic rank progression for faculty members. The Library will still receive funding for costs related to the US exchange rate. The Library is discussing how to manage the unexpected shortfall. The Library is also facing costs related to security and computer upgrades. Mitigations are available, but it may involve reducing hours at some branches and redistributing the Academic Excellence Funds.

Next Meeting Thursday 11 April 2024 2:30-4 pm

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm.