

## **Report of the Senate Library Committee (SLC) 2024-2025**

Submitted by Sam Popowich, SLC Chair, April 23, 2025

### **Committee Members:**

Sam Popowich (Librarian elected from Librarians Council; Chair); Gabrielle Prefontaine (Dean of the Library); Christine Hoeppner (Librarian elected from Librarians Council); Marcella Siqueira Cassiano (Humanities); Marianne Geisler (Sciences); Anne-Laurence Cadano (Associate Dean – Arts); James Hanley (Acting Associate Dean - Arts); Satyendra Singh (Member-At-Large); Fabrizio DiMuro (Member-at-Large); Heather Milne (Member-At-Large). Chhavi Dhir (UWSA Senator);

As per the Senate Standing Rules, the duties of the Senate Library Committee (SLC) are:

- to provide advice and make recommendations concerning Library policy to the Dean of Libraries
- for greater certainty, to recommend academic policy to the Dean of Libraries, including ways in which the budgetary resources available to the Libraries might be allocated most effectively from an academic perspective

### **The SLC met four times:**

#### On August 27, 2024

- New Sharepoint site shared with committee members in order to facilitate and improve communications between librarians, SLC, and departmental representatives. This site is intended as a communications hub for information-sharing amongst the library representatives in an effort to mobilize and better connect with that group.
- One-pager of library reps responsibilities document developed and shared with committee members.
- Discussion of Open Access, Digital Stewardship & Preservation, and Library renovations.
- Planning for Library Reps' Onboarding Forum in mid-October.

#### On November 20, 2024

- Debrief from October's onboarding forum. The event went well. Committee members Sam Popowich and Brianne Selman presented an overview of role of liaison librarians and library reps, and on open access. Begin thinking about spring "debrief" forum in late February or early March.
- Discussed first annual library report, highlighting the work of the librarians and including library statistics. Library plans to launch a newsletter in the new year, featuring collections, activities, and research news plus critical information around dates, services, etc.

- Library renovations planned in two areas: 4<sup>th</sup> floor circulation/study room area, and 5<sup>th</sup> floor classroom.
- Discussion of collections budget and the need to be strategic; tri-agency open access policy that is in development; responsibility for maintaining digital archives, primary sources, research outputs, etc.

#### On February 5, 2025

- Library is working on a tool for researchers to be able to look up OA/APC information.
- Library newsletter (The Primary Source) is now available.
- Library renovations (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors) moving ahead, as are improvements to 5<sup>th</sup> floor washrooms.
- Date for library rep debrief forum is March 19, 2025. This will include presentations by library reps on how their year went.

#### On April 9, 2025

- Library/archives have decided on the technology to be used to transfer university records from academic/admin departments to the archive. Just waiting on the policy side to be finalized.
- Changes to the OHC – OHC will temporarily report to the Dean of the Library.
- Staff turnover: hoping to fill vacant librarian and staff positions.
- Given this year's budget, the library has had to adjust hours and focus on core activities, including a reasonable adjustment to the collections budget to maintain respectable and solid research support.
- Debrief from library reps forum in March: some useful information from faculty, including some things the librarians have already been discussing, around how to integrate librarians' literacy expertise (both information and traditional literacy) into undergraduate programs.
- Planning to improve the library reps Sharepoint site for better communication.
- SLC report due April 25 2025.

#### **Library Representatives Forum:**

As planned in 2023-2024, SLC hosted two Library Representatives Fora on October 9, 2024 (Onboarding) and March 19, 2025 (Debrief). These sessions were well-received by the departmental representatives, both in terms of introducing them to their roles at the beginning of the academic year, and hearing about their experience at the end. The librarians also found the fora useful, in order to be able to present on some timely pieces of library work (open access, Indigenous engagement) and to hear from faculty about their library experience over the course of the year.

#### **Integrated Library Instruction:**

The question of more deeply integrating library instruction around various literacies (traditional, information, artificial intelligence, etc.) was discussed at the spring Library Reps forum SLC. There seems to be some interest in having librarians more involved in bridging an apparent literacy gap, particularly among undergraduate students. From a librarian perspective, this could mean supplementing the existing “one shot” library instruction session with more scaffolded information education (some examples of this include teaching undergraduate research courses, providing microcredentials, etc). In discussions with SLC, there was an understanding that the library alone can’t make this happen, and much of the decision-making needs to happen among teaching faculty, at departmental and senate levels. We look forward to continuing this conversation over the course of the upcoming year.

Thank you to Dean Gabrielle Prefontaine and the library staff for their guidance and advice. I would also like to thank Janice Reyes Bain for her administrative support to the SLC.