

Library Student Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, March 25, 5-6:30PM

Present: Chantel Bennett, Music Students' Council (USC); Jaylin Marriott, Science, 2nd year; Casey Lin, FIMS, 4th year; Bruce Yu, Social Science, 2nd year; Yousuf Ali, Health Sciences, 1st year; Anna Oliveira, USAL, Arts and Humanities, 2nd year; Anthony Cruz, VP: Academic (SOGS, Social Science); RJ Dill, SOGS Councillor (MLIS); Geoffrey Robert Little, Vice Provost and Chief Librarian, Chair; Sara Poulin, User Services Manager, Taylor Library; Jennifer Robinson, User Experience Librarian, Outreach (Notes).

Regrets: Mariana Batista, VP: Student Affairs (USC); Tessa Smith, Social Science Students' Council (USC); Duaa Abbasi, Social Science, 3rd year; Jiyon Shim, Arts and Humanities; Fatemeh Aminjafari, Chemical/Biochemical Engineering

Agenda

1. Questions arising from previous minutes of [November 26, 2024](#) (Jennifer Robinson)

No questions were received.

2. Update from the Vice Provost and Chief Librarian (Geoffrey Robert Little)

Geoffrey advised that the new Scholars Lab on the ground floor of Weldon is nearing completion, with next steps for program development underway. He provided an update on the library budget, explaining the different components, i.e. operating and acquisitions. Western Libraries is working with a flat budget, meaning we have not been asked to make any reductions at this time. He clarified that the capital budget is entirely separate from the library budget, and that Western Libraries is not receiving any capital funds in the coming fiscal year.

Geoffrey confirmed that the transfer of the Brescia Library collection is well in hand, with most items on the shelf in their new home. Some materials require re-cataloguing and are still in process. Any materials not yet available through Western Libraries can be requested through interlibrary loans. In response to a question about the future use of the Brescia Library space, Geoffrey indicated the library has not been apprised of any future plans for the vacated library.

3. Library collections (Anna Lucia Oliveira)

Anna shared her experience using print collections in Weldon, noting that she often is unable to find materials that have been mis-shelved, and that some of the books she borrows have been highlighted and/or written in, making them difficult to use. She wondered how the library tracks books that are not in their right place, and if vandalism of materials is monitored.

Sara explained that shelf reading, the act of reviewing all of the books on library shelves to make sure they are in the correct order, is an ongoing activity. Most shelf reading is done in the summer months when we have more time to dedicate to this task. It takes a full calendar year to shelf read the entire collection. Sara further advised that staff are always available to help you find a book in the stacks, and if it can't be found, can help you to source another copy.

Discussion followed about ways to help people using the collection understand they should not try to re-shelve books on their own. Suggestions included signage in the stacks area, marking carts for book returns and making these easy to access and clearly identifiable, and/or having tables specific for books consulted but not signed out labelled, so that students looking for a study seat don't think the table is saved and skip it.

Action: Jennifer will relay the concern about mis-shelved books and the ideas to address the problem to User Services (Weldon).

In regards to vandalism of library books, Sara noted that return points are not staffed. It is incredibly difficult to tell when a book has been vandalized, and who is responsible. If you find a book that is damaged through vandalism or from extensive use, report it to staff so that we can determine if a replacement copy might be warranted.

Action: Jennifer will recommend a social media campaign to the Outreach team for next fall to educate library users about appropriate use of library materials, such as not writing or highlighting in library books, as it may make them unusable for others.

4. Scholars Lab Tour (Jennifer)

The group toured the new Scholars Lab space on the Ground floor of Weldon Library. Program components include a new classroom designed to support special collections and archives teaching, a Graduate Student Commons specifically for graduate student use, and a Project Room for groups to use for large meetings or presentations. There is also a presentation space and general work space on the floor. Two of the spaces are still being programmed, including a podcast studio.