

Library Student Advisory Council Agenda

Wednesday, November 26, 5-6:30PM, Weldon Library staff lounge (5th floor)

Present: Amrithaa Logeswaran, Anna Lucia Oliveria, Anthony Cruz, Braedan Lovie, Duaa Abbasi, Sabreen Kaur (on behalf of Jenna Ijam), Kye Deuters, Mallory Long, Rhea Katyal, Sarah Brown, Yousef Ali, Geoffrey Robert Little (Chair), Sara Poulin, Jennifer Robinson (notes)

Regrets: Ava Testa, Bruce Yu

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

Geoffrey welcomed new and returning members of the council and offered his thanks for everyone's time and experience. He shared an update on the broader financial challenges facing Western and Western Libraries, noting that while the acquisitions budget is being maintained, the operating budget is under pressure. Geoffrey emphasized that going forward Western Libraries will focus on identifying what the library does exceptionally well and prioritizing services that only the library can provide. Council input was highlighted as critical in shaping future decisions during this period of constraint.

2. Guided tours for first year students (Rhea Katyal)

Council members discussed a recommendation to offer library guided tours to first-year students, particularly during O-Week. Many students shared that Weldon Library can feel overwhelming and that awareness of library resources, beyond study space, comes too late or not at all for some programs. Guided tours provided with physical and digital takeaway materials were seen as a potential way to reduce anxiety, increase confidence, and improve understanding of both physical spaces and online resources.

The group explored multiple options including residence-based tours, faculty day integration, evergreen video content and stronger use of social media. Capacity and sustainability were noted as key considerations, alongside a desire for consistent explore across programs.

Action: Jennifer will share the ideas discussed for guided tours with the Western Libraries outreach team for consideration, with potential changes being in place for fall 2026.

3. Business arising

Vandalism – (Youseff)

Concerns were raised about vandalism in library spaces, particularly writing and imagery on desks and furniture. While students expressed interest in helping address the issue, library staff clarified that reporting mechanisms already exist and that custodial work must remain within union guidelines. Students were encouraged to report vandalism to staff so it can be addressed promptly.

The discussion broadened to library culture more generally, including noise concerns and respect for shared spaces. Council members emphasized the role of education, prevention, and positive messaging—particularly early in students' university experience. Suggestions included

incorporating expectations into tours, using short social media videos, promoting library dos and don'ts and amplifying the work of Library Ambassadors and student organizations.

Action: Jennifer will share the ideas discussed for addressing library culture issues with the User Services Leaders group, who are best positioned to action feedback.

5. UX Activity (Sara Poulin)

The meeting concluded with a hands-on user experience activity led by library staff to better understand student behaviors, perceptions, and needs related to library services. Insights from this activity will inform future programming and engagement strategies.