



Committee: GFC Library Committee

GFC Standing Committee Report for July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

Date: September 13, 2016

To: Jodie Gallais, University Secretariat

From: Christopher J. Nicol, Chair,
GFC Library Committee and University Librarian

RE: Annual Report from GFC Library Committee, 2015/16

The GFC Library Committee was again very busy, during 2015/16, with six regularly-scheduled meetings having been held, on: September 23 and October 28, 2015; then on January 27, February 23, March 23 and April 26, 2016. In addition, a Joint Meeting was held on November 25, 2015, attended by the members of the GFC Library Committee, Professional Librarians and Subject Area Liaison academic staff member representatives who deal directly with Subject Area Professional Librarians, Library services Supervisors, and a number of Department Chairs/Area Coordinators. Members of the GFC Library Committee also attended the Library Retreat on May 3, 2016, where the main business theme of the Retreat was a discussion of Library facility re-development, as this relates to the Destination Project, the Library Academic Plan (LAP) and staff renewal, owing to a series of staff and librarian retirements over this year and next year.

Specific items of business which the GFC Library Committee dealt with this year included the following: (1) discussions around Tri-Council policies pertaining to open access publication and research data management, both of which are or becoming increasingly important for Tri-Council grant-holders, and the role of the Library in supporting these requirements; (2) the significant impacts on the Library acquisitions budget of Canadian dollar (CAD) depreciation against the U.S. dollar (USD), and the systematic erosion of the acquisitions budget through vendor cost increases associated with the highly concentrated (oligopolistic) nature of the academic publishing business; (3) an update to the Library Academic Plan, which continues to focus on the Library Information Literacy and Instruction Programme, and its linkages with Liberal Education, as well as to the Liberal Education Re-vitalisation Team's (LERT) activities; (4) the impact and implications of the University Voluntary Exit Programme (VEP) on Library staffing, now and in the future – particularly as this relates to Library staff capacity for existing and newly emerging service requirements; (5) consortial initiatives pertaining to the shared print archive network (SPAN), where our Library joined participation in the SPAN monograph project; (6)

collection development and management strategies more generally, as we continuously strive to maintain value for money, in Library acquisitions; (7) negative impacts associated with a possible permanent reduction to the Library student assistants budget; (8) the creation of the new role of Associate Member of Library Academic Staff, and two appointments to this designation, alongside the creation of the Library research institute, The Lethbridge Centre for the Study of Scholarly Communication; and (9) possible implications for Library facility re-development in the context of the Destination Project.

In the current year, we will be engaging in a more thorough-going revision to the LAP, taking into account prioritisation/optimisation of Library services against the background of staffing renewal, Library facility re-development and continuing to strengthen/augment our relations with other academic units and the Office of Research and Innovation Services (ORIS). To this end, we have a number of planning initiatives in early stages of development, and in which members of the GFC Library Committee will be invited to participate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Nicol".

Christopher J. Nicol, Ph.D., Chair,
GFC Library Committee and University Librarian