

# Wilfrid Laurier University Library Council

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## Approved Minutes - Monday, March 29, 2021 Teams Virtual Meeting, 10:00am - 11:30am

- Present: Gohar Ashoughian (Chair), Safaa Bedawi (Faculty Rep), Gordon Bertrand, Tarah Brookfield, Debbie Chaves, Pauline Dewan, Meredith Fischer, Peter Genzinger, Scott Gillies, Hope Jowharian (Undergrad Rep), Anne Kelly, Devyn Kelly (Undergrad Rep), Helene LeBlanc, Yanli Li, Gregory Mitchell (Graduate Rep), Joanne Oud, Nathan Rambukkana (Faculty Rep), Matt Rohweder, Melanie Ross (Library Staff Rep), Greg Sennema, Michael Steeleworthy, Irene Tencinger, Murray Tong (Library Staff Rep), Fang Wang (Faculty Rep)
- Regrets: Vera Fesnak, Michelle Goodridge, Charlotte Innerd, Dillon Moore, Matt Tales, Matt Thomas, Mark Weiler
- Recording: Jennifer Knechtel
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### 1. Welcome and introductions

- Gohar welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced both Jonathan Newman, Vice President Research and Mike Morrice, Social Entrepreneur in Residence as presenters at today's Council.

### 2. Approval of the agenda

- Motion: Gohar Ashoughian moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Melanie Ross.
- approved by all, no questions or additions

### 3. Approval of the minutes from January 19, 2021

- Motion: Gohar Ashoughian moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Anne Kelly.
- approved by all, no questions or comments

### 4. Business arising from the minutes

- none

### 5. University Librarian Report

Gohar noted that we have been working hard on managing and delivering library services throughout the pandemic. A lot of work was done for winter and preparation for spring and summer is ongoing.

Gohar expressed her sincere thanks to all for the hard work that has taken place. Gohar also highlighted that resource sharing with other institutions is in place.

We are working on active service planning for the Fall term; this planning is based on the details of academic planning for course delivery in the Fall 2021 term and the University and provincial health and safety protocols. The Library will complete detailed template outlining the services and staffing requirements. LibExec has started initial conversations with further consultation and communication to follow.

We have signed the agreement with Access Copyright and the agreement has been finalized. A presentation is planned for an upcoming Senate meeting. This agreement provides an advantage of having online material available to our community. The cost of the license has increased slightly from \$12 to \$13.50 per FTE. The University is covering the increase and therefore there will not be an impact experienced by the students.

## 6. New Business

### **Research Services: Jonathan Newman, VP Research**

Today's presentation will be to provide an overview on the reactions to culture survey.

Jonathan noted that there was a lot learned from the survey and lots to be worked on. He explained that we are on a journey, transitioning from primarily an undergrad focused University to one that is research intensive.

Main takeaways from the survey:

- We do pre-award support well, but not as strong at post award support (meaning what happens after funding is received). Important to remember that these are people (staff) that are trying their best to provide service. This is an understaffed area.
- People don't feel that we (Research) care that much about what they are doing in terms of Research or providing enough support to promote. Need to work on changing this perception.
- Workload perception is also a challenge

Early responses:

- ICT Is rolling out Chrome Review that will allow digital filing of expense claims to hopefully help with post award support.
- Jonathan will be holding focus groups to better understand what could be done better.
- Researcher handbook is being developed; this will take the format of a web portal (one stop entry portal). It appears that not all faculty understand what ORS is currently providing.

- Developing standard of service statements to assist with clarity.
- Working with CPAM to regroup on communications strategy. Press releases are not the only form of promotion and not the only or best way to communicate. Not appropriate to issue a release for everything that comes out. There are many other communication tools that can be used.
- Another staff member has been added to Research Finance. This is not necessarily the answer; an operational review has been planned.
- Planning workshops and other training opportunities. In the past the workshops have not been particularly well attended.
- Will be focusing on new Faculty; both orientation and also training cycle.

#### Next Few Months:

- Working with EAB (consulting firm) for development of programs (faculty mentorship and application peer-review).
- Working on revamping of University Research site.
- It was highlighted that Brantford has some unique and additional challenges that are being looked at (especially related to graduate programs).

#### What can academic Faculty or Librarians do?

- Think and act deliberately about culture. Think about what's going to work in our building. For example, celebrating each other research successes.
- 12.5% of research funds go the library, majority go to the Faculty. Key for experienced faculty members to mentor.
- Most of the suggestions are related to the various Faculties.
- Important to share best practices with each other as well as with ORS.

Gohar noted that a group had been put together to help celebrate research successes. Librarians are part of this 6-member group to look at opportunities to celebrate the researchers.

There will also be a research librarian award coming forward. It is at the preliminary discussion stage.

#### QA:

What is your position on the chronic underfunding of Library's acquisition budget? Difficult to be Research intensive without the tools.

Jonathan considers this part of post award support. The Library aspect is critical as is admin support. ORS is creating a priority list for when recovery happens and there may be funding support available.

With the travel restrictions, what happens to funding and timelines?

It depends on source of funding. Tri-funding agencies have been good for making exceptions (1 year extensions).

Is the concept for the handbook to be a living document?

Yes, which is why it will be on the web versus distributed hardcopy.

Have the research ambassadors been chosen yet?

They have not been chosen yet; they are brand new positions. To this point roughly 12 discussions have taken place. At least one position currently has zero applicants. Jonathan confirmed that Librarians are eligible to apply. These positions will be rotated, likely every 2 years.

Is there a program to link Researchers with public libraries; at this time ORS is not providing leadership for this, but will look into it.

### **Social Entrepreneur in Residence: Mike Morrice**

Gohar provided a brief introduction noting that Mike graduated from a double degree program from Laurier. Mike has also been named entrepreneur of the year by the Chamber of Commerce.

Mike will be in his current inaugural role until August 2021.

Mike explained that he is available to the Library and students as a resource. His focus is to engage with students and support them on projects to make the world a better place.

This support is across all faculties and all campuses. The appointment is until the end of August.

Some faculties have been requesting a guest lecture while others have requested one on one support for a student group. Mike encouraged all to share his contact information to facilitate students reaching out directly. His goal is to provide as much support as possible to the students.

There is no rush to take time of the offer (within timeframe of appointment).

QA:

Gohar highlighted the opportunity to engage students through the Makerspace.

Helene asked If Mike was working with LSPIRG.

He clarified that yes that group exists on campus and is happy to collaborate. One point of clarification, Mike is not the director of Social Entrepreneurship. In his current role Mike will be spending time listening to people across campus to hear their thoughts on connectivity.

Mike was asked to encourage students he is working with to seek research help from the Library. Mike asked for specific Library link ([library.wlu.ca](http://library.wlu.ca)). Anne added that subject librarians would be a great contact for students.

Mike noted he is also able to provide students with community connections (for example connecting with early adopters).

#### 7. Other Business

- Devyn highlighted that this will be the last Council meeting for both Hope and herself as their respective terms are ending with the Student Union. Gohar expressed her thanks for both their support and participation.

#### 8. Next Meeting

- Fall 2021

#### 9. Adjournment

- Motion: Gohar moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned by consensus at 11:25am.