

## **Library Advisory Committee for Law – March 21, 2017**

**Present:** Nicholas Bala, Michele Chittenden, Amy Kaufman, Shira Levine, Cherie Metcalf, Patrick Patterson (minutes), Sandra Morden, Anne Smithers, Nathalie Soini, Leslie Taylor, Chris Waters, Martha Whitehead

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

### **2. Review of Terms of Reference:**

With reference to the QUL Annual Report, Amy Kaufman reviewed the role of liaison librarians from all of the Faculty Liaison Units, including Law, in providing support for students, faculty, and staff. The Law liaison team specifically “works directly with students, faculty and staff in the Faculty of Law and other members of the Queen’s and local communities engaging in legal research.” The Library-Wide Divisions (Academic Services, Collection Development and Assessment, Discovery and Technology Services, and Information Services) provide further support to the Queen’s community across all disciplines. The Library Advisory Committee for the Library and Faculty of Law serves as “a forum for the Library and the Faculty of Law community at Queen’s University to discuss and inform Library services and strategic priorities...”

### **3. Student engagement Discussion:**

Martha Whitehead introduced a new project in the library, the creation of a comprehensive “communication and engagement strategy”. This topic was the subject of a focus group in the Senate Library Committee, and feedback will be solicited from Faculty Advisory Committees and all units and divisions across the library. Recommendations are considered in the context of the Library’s planning cycle that includes the annual budget and 3-year projections. The focus group questions discussed by the SLC are included as an appendix on page 4. The Library Advisory Committee for Law discussed these questions, and Comments included the following:

#### **Question 1. Personal Experiences of Queen’s University Library**

- JD students wondered if Group Study Room bookings in the Law Library could prioritize law students.
- To ensure quiet study space, sound proofing the study rooms would also be desirable. Signage requesting that users work quietly might also be helpful, particularly during law exams.
- Students asked if it would be possible to replace the wooden chairs in the reading room with soft seating, similar to that in the Law Learning Commons.
- The Law Students’ Society commented on the helpful role of the Library, particularly with respect to student consultations with librarians.
- A professor stated that the Lederman Law Library staff are especially helpful and continue to have an important supportive role in teaching. Furthermore, the library is an important resource for practising professionals and provides access to justice through public

consultation. It was noted that other library locations, and specifically the Education Library, serves teaching professionals in much the same way with similar dedication.

**Question 2. What is different about the Queen's University Library versus other libraries?**

- The Lederman Law Library is very highly rated, particularly with respect to its resources and in its support of legal research.
- It might be desirable for Law to have the same opening hours as Stauffer, but further consultation with users would be useful to determine needs.
- The couches on the 2nd floor received mention as a comfortable study place.
- Air conditioning would improve environmental conditions in the building, and aid in the preservation of the valuable collection, if funding could be secured.

**Question 3. How might we engage more with others?**

- It was recommended that a Library Tour be included during Year 1 Orientation Week, which would include an introduction to pertinent library resources.
- More instruction in using library print and electronic resources/databases in particular would be helpful. Students might be more receptive during the first couple of weeks of the program, and a recommendation was made to build on to the ILS course.
- Additional power bars in the Reading Room area would be appreciated.
- There was a question of whether the door that connects Macdonald Hall to Mac-Corry could be made accessible to students, perhaps with a key fob. Security concerns would need to be considered.

**Other feedback from student and faculty representatives**

A request was made for updated WestLaw/QuickLaw instruction for graduate students. It was noted that international students may have limited Canadian legal research skills.

**Recommendation:** a refresher session should be held early in the school year. **Action:** Amy Kaufman will get in touch with the professor of the graduate seminar to explore this.

**4. Ideas for Stress Relief for Law Students**

The Library allocates \$50 for each Library location to provide stress relief activities and resources for students during the exam period. Puzzles may not be ideal, as they take up much needed study space; fruit and healthy snacks have been popular in the past. Animal therapy (i.e. play with puppies) was suggested. This has been introduced at the ARC, but the logistics for doing this at Law were unclear; the Law student lounge might be a practical location if this were to be pursued. A colouring activity could work at Law since it would not require dedicated space otherwise needed for study. There was much interest in providing massage for students and the Library could collaborate with the student society. **Action:** Shira Levine will get contact with students pursuing this idea and refer them to Amy Kaufman, who will consult with Nathalie Soini on the logistics.

5. **Facilities Update**

Nathalie Soini reported that the new desk is in place at Law. The design features represent what will be a common look and feel for service points at all campus library locations. The front wall (facing the outside corridor) will be replaced with a partial glass wall in the coming months, as the existing structure is not constructed to current code. A self-check out service will be introduced shortly (expected to be live in April). MeeScan will allow patrons to check books out using an app on their phones. There will also be an iPad for people to use who do not have the MeeScan app on their phones. Self-service should improve the flow of the heavily used Reserve Collection.

6. **Research Data Management Survey**

Michele Chittenden gave a short presentation on the results of a Research Management Survey that included Law professors and graduate students. The stated objectives of the survey were to:

- Determine how Queen's faculty manage and share research data beyond their project
- Determine how Queen's University Library might help to facilitate data management activities
- Understand some of the differences in research data management practices and needs across disciplines and sub-disciplines

The slides for this presentation will be circulated to Committee members.

## **Appendix:**

### **Questions from Senate Library Committee Faculty & Student Representatives**

**Senate Library Committee Meeting, December 5, 2016**

**Agenda Topic: Student Engagement**

#### **Purposes of our discussion:**

- To inform the development of our student engagement strategy
- To explore student experiences of the library
- To identify some stories from those experiences – the library as a resource, a facility, a space

#### **1. Personal Experiences of Queen's University Library**

- What, if any, impact has the Queen's University Library had on your (or your students')  
information  
seeking/learning/teaching/research?
- In what ways has the library supported your activities at Queen's?
- What does the library offer to you?
- If you have had a positive library experience, what has contributed to that? (If not, what would have made the experience positive?)

#### **2. What is different about the Queen's University Library versus other libraries?**

- What do you like best about the library?
  - What is important about that? What does that do for you?
- What aspects of the library have you or your users discovered that were unexpected?
- What is the library's reputation?
- What two things would you absolutely NOT change within the library?
  - What makes that work? What makes that worthwhile?
- What immediately comes to mind when you think about your experiences with the library?
- If there is one story you want to tell about the library what story would you tell?
- Please finish the following sentence: The Queen's University Library is .....

#### **3. How might we engage more with others?**

- How might we ensure that students are aware of library resources and services? One example of this would be to ensure the library consistently appears on course syllabi. What would you recommend?
- Brainstorm ideas.
- What would be one concrete idea that would help us engage students that we could implement tomorrow?