Minutes of the Student Library Advisory Committee (SLAC)  
Monday March 13, 2006  
2:30 – 4:00pm  
Multipurpose Room, Mills Memorial Library

Present: Jeannie An (Innis Library), Riane Leonard (McMaster Humanities Society), Vivian Lewis, (Associate University Librarian and Chair, SLAC), Barbara McDonald (Mills Library), Kate McKinlay (DeGroote Commerce Society), Linda Michtics (Thode Library), Sam Minniti (McMaster Association of Part-time Students).

1. Welcome
Vivian Lewis, Associate University Librarian (Services) and chair of SLAC, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Business Arising from the Minutes of November 3, 2005
No business arising from the meeting.

3. Minutes and approval of November 3, 2005 meeting
The group reviewed the minutes from the November 3, 2005 and approved the minutes as written.

4. New Appointments
B. McDonald announced three appointments including the hiring of a new University Librarian, Jeff Trzeciak, whose term would begin on July 1, 2006. Other new appointments included Wade Wyckoff, Cataloguing Policy Librarian and Anne Pottier, Associate University Librarian, Collections.

5. Space Initiatives
V. Lewis provided a progress report on the Mills Learning Commons. The Learning Commons is scheduled to open September 2006. The project was approved by the University’s Board of Governors at a cost of $1.8 Million.

6. Library Assessment Tools – LibQUAL+ / SAILS
V. Lewis reported that McMaster is participating in the 2006 run of the LibQUAL+ survey. LibQUAL+ is an online tool that measures users’ opinions of the Library’s services, collections and facilities. The survey will be sent to a random sample of McMaster students, faculty and staff. Full results from the survey will be known in December. For more information on LibQUAL+ please see: http://www.libqual.org/

J. An reported that the Library is also exploring the use of another measurement tool called SAILS (Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills). SAILS is a standardized test of information literacy skills based on ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. This web-based tool allows libraries to document information literacy skill levels for groups of students and to pinpoint areas for
improvement in instruction programs. More information about SAILS is available from: https://www.projectsails.org/sails/aboutSAILS.php?page=aboutSAILS

7. Library Hours
L. Michtics reported that library hours will be extended during the exam period and that the specific hours will be posted on the hours website. Linda also provided the proposed summer schedule for the UL (Mills, Innis and Thode) libraries.

8. NOISE in the Library
V. Lewis led the discussion of noise in libraries, specifically at Mills. Some points from the discussion included:

- Students want a clear list of rules.
- Certain areas of the building are very noisy and an aggressive plan is required to deter excessive noise.
- Strong interest in banning or severely limiting the use of cell phones in the libraries.
- Students should not be allowed to "claim" a carrel during exam periods by leaving their belongings unattended.
- There should be more Quick Access terminals. NOTES: Being able to borrow laptops should help. HSL has placed a 30 minute limit on some of their computers.
- Students want to be able to book study rooms.
- Need an enforcement policy.

ACTION: The Library will work on a set of regulations for personal conduct in Mills, Innis and Thode. The new regulations should be in place by September 2006.

ACTION: Innis Library will pilot a manual [in-person] booking system for the 3 group study rooms.

9. Other Business:
A discussion arose on when was the best time to have the SLAC meetings and it was suggested that the spring meeting should be held two weeks earlier, right after Study Week (or end of February) or one week later.

The meeting adjourned at 4pm.