Minutes of the Student Library Advisory Committee (SLAC)  
Monday March 26, 2007  
Multipurpose Room, Mills Memorial Library

Present: Vivian Lewis, Jeannie An, Peggy Findlay, Linda Michtics, Devon Donaldson, Sam Minniti

1. Welcome  
Vivian welcomed all members to the meeting.

2. Business Arising  
None

3. Approval of October 17, 2006 Minutes  
Approved without revision.

4. Library Spaces

a) Mills Learning Commons

- The construction phase is nearing completion. Just waiting for some additional lounge seating and coffee tables for the 2nd and 3rd floors.
- Will be opening the McLay portion of the Learning Commons for late-night study (till 2:00 a.m.) from April 9 to April 26. Enter from the Tower Entrance on the east side of the building. The late-night service is being offered as a pilot to evaluate the demand, staffing and security models.
- The Mills Learning Commons project received the Rudy Heinzl Award from the MSU. The award recognizes a one-year contribution which improves the lives of McMaster students.

b) Thode Learning Commons

- The project has been included in the University’s Capital Campaign.  
  Total value of proposal: $4 million.
- The Library is in the initial concept phase.
- Are looking for a dramatic renovation of the entire library.
- Planned as a high-tech, high-touch facility – including touch-screen panels, high-end multimedia stations, ample electrical outlets and more laptops for loan.
• The working concept has significant portions of the collections being moved to the Lower Level. This shift would support significant increases in the amount of study seating on the 1st and 2nd floors.
• 1st floor will feature a mix of study seating options (individual, group). Will also potentially include a café.
• The University has hired an architect to create some preliminary floor plans for costing purposes.
• Start date unknown.
• Students will be involved in the finalization of the design.
• MAPS interested in projects that benefit the lives of part time students.

c) Update on Burlington Campus

• Jeannie An updated the committee on the status of the Burlington Campus. The new focus for the Burlington Campus will be a satellite campus for the DeGroote School of Business. The second campus will focus on offering Executive Education and MBA programs. There will also be a small family practice program available at the Burlington site. A memorandum of agreement has been signed between the City of Burlington and McMaster but plans are very preliminary. More details will be shared as they become available. Students were encouraged to consult the following link for updates on the Burlington campus:
  o http://www.degroote.mcmaster.ca/about/burlingtonc.aspx

5. Collection Resources update

• New products from the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (including the complete journal suites from Blackwells, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press and Taylor and Francis): Knowledge Ontario, Conference Board of Canada’s e-Library, Library Digitization Project of military maps and air photos from the WWI collection, Ebook Library (EBL), Springer STM ebooks.

6. Transforming the Organization

• From August to November 2006, the Library conducted a review of its organizational structure (what work is being done? how it is being done? who is doing the work?). Hired a consultant to conduct focus groups and interviews with our stakeholders (included three student representatives). Report posted November 2006.
December 2006: Offered staff voluntary separation packages. Resulted in 8 staff taking early retirement. Now in the process of filling six new librarian positions:

- **Teaching and Learning Librarian:** to work with faculty and with our librarians to ensure that libraries are part of the teaching equation.
- **Digital Technologies Librarian:** to build the technical infrastructure we need to support a 21st century library.
- **Digital Strategies Librarian:** to assist in moving some of our unique collections from print to digital.
- **Immersive Learning Librarian:** to explore new modes of delivering library services through gaming and virtual worlds.
- **Marketing, Outreach and Communications Librarian:** to market the Library to campus and to the world.
- **E-Resources Librarian:** to help us manage our vast electronic collections.

7. **Personal Conduct Regulations**

- In November/December the Library did a signage and screensaver campaign and this was very useful
- New round of signage/screensavers coming out next week (Vivian to verify dates)
- This problem is happening everywhere
- Must keep changing signage because there are just too many people
- McLay will have some sound baffling
- Some Circulation staff will go off of the desk in May and hence spend more time patrolling

8. **Other Business**

- Laptop fines - $20 per hour. Laptops are in very high demand. The two students at this meeting felt the fine was appropriate.
- Timing of meetings: Sam said March is out of the question and suggested late January and also late September
- SLAC (Student Library Advisory Committee) made up of reps. from MSU, MAPS, SOCS. Call Faculty Society presidents 2 times a term (late Sept./early Oct.). Vivian to talk to Ryan Moran about getting more representation and more active representation for this committee
- Jeannie An will send out minutes of SLAC meetings to all of SLAC

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.