

July 12, 2011

Dr. Patrick Deane
President & Vice-Chancellor
Gilmour Hall, Room 238
McMaster University
1280 Main St. W.
Hamilton, ON
L8S 4L8

Dear Dr. Deane;

The members of the Association of Professional Librarians of the University of Alberta (APLUA) join with other Librarian and Faculty Associations across Canada in voicing our support for the Librarians at McMaster University. We are very concerned about the devaluing of the role of professional librarians at McMaster. We affirm both the ongoing importance of the American Library Association accredited Master's Degree in Librarianship, and the continuing core role of Librarians within the academic community.

In particular we echo the concerns expressed by our colleagues in APUB (Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa), in their letter of May 24, 2011 regarding "the demoralizing manner in which the Chief Librarian is directing change at McMaster". Mr. Trzeciak's intention to refrain from hiring any more librarians – as articulated in his presentation at the Pennsylvania State University Libraries on April 8, 2011 - will maintain, as APUB indicates "one of the lowest librarian-to-student ratios in the country." This approach will only serve to perpetuate an undesirable service environment.

While we certainly welcome the recent announcement indicating that the President and Provost at McMaster are "convening a review of the University Library", what is equally important is that there be a concomitant review of the University Librarian.

Yours Truly,



Fred Ziegler
President, Association of Professional Librarians of the University of Alberta.

cc: Mr. Richard G. Buckingham, Chair, Board of Governors, McMaster University
c/o Mr. W. Bruce Frank, Secretary of the Board <frankwb@mcmaster.ca>
Dr. Ilene Busch-Vishniac, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) McMaster University <provost@mcmaster.ca>



cc: McMaster University Faculty Association <mufa@mcmaster.ca>
MUALA (McMaster University Academic Librarians' Association)
<contact@muala.ca>
Mr. Jeff Trzeciak, McMaster University Librarian <ulatmac@mcmaster.ca>
APUO (Association des professeurs de l'Université d'Ottawa)
<apuo@uottawa.ca>
CAUT Librarians' Committee <acppu@caut.ca>
Dr. Ian MacLaren, President, Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta
<ian.maclaren@ualberta.ca>
Mrs. Brygeda Renke, Executive Director, Association of Academic Staff:
University of Alberta <brygeda.renke@ualberta.ca>