

August 19, 2011

Dr. Patrick Deane  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
McMaster University

Dear President Deane,

The librarian members of the Brock University Faculty Association voice their support for the librarians and archivists at McMaster University, joining a growing chorus of librarians across Canada concerned about the actions of the University Librarian, Jeff Trzeciak. In particular, we have grave concerns about Mr. Trzeciak's devaluing of professional librarians through such means as downsizing and publicly stating that in the future he would hire non-librarians to do professional library work.

The membership deplores the debasing of academic values and objectives such as the advancement of learning and the dissemination of knowledge that academic librarians provide with their unique form of professional guidance and leadership to students and faculty, and the provision of ethically informative decisions in their professional practice to shape and transform academic libraries to fit the academic mission.

We endorse the joint responsibility of all members of the University Community to promote and pursue these objectives within a general climate of freedom and responsibility, collegiality, civility and mutual respect. We are encouraged by your recent decision to initiate a review of the McMaster University Libraries, and sincerely hope that a review of the University Librarian be included, as well as consultation with the McMaster University Academic Librarians' Association.

Sincerely,

Doug Suarez, Liaison Librarian  
On behalf of the librarian members of the Brock University Faculty Association

C.C. Ilene Busch-Vishniac, Provost and VP Academic, McMaster University  
McMaster University Academic Librarians' Association  
McMaster University Faculty Association