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September 16, 2011

Dr. Patrick Deane President McMaster University Gilmour Hall, Room 238 McMaster University 1280 Main Street West Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4L8

Dear President Deane,

The Simon Fraser University Faculty Association (SFUFA) wishes to express its support for the librarians at McMaster University and to raise our concerns regarding statements made by University Librarian Jeffrey Trzeciak during a presentation given at Pennsylvania State University in April of this year. Mr. Trzeciak indicated that he would begin to staff vacant librarian positions with non-librarians and that no librarians would be hired in future. We are further dismayed to learn that these announcements were made without having consulted with librarians and library staff beforehand.

SFUFA is on record in its support for librarians at its institution, recognizing the library lies at the heart of research and teaching support and that librarians are integral to this process. We feel that Mr. Trzeciak's stated goals of replacing librarians with limited term post doctoral fellows and/or IT staff is extremely short sighted and will not benefit either the library or McMaster in the long run. We understand the McMaster library is examining the way it delivers support and services and wish to emphasize that professional librarians are integral to these processes.

Respectfully,

Carla Graebner

cc:

President, Simon Fraser University Faculty Association

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

McMaster University Faculty Association