

September 23, 2011

President Patrick Deane, McMaster University
Dr. Ilene J. Busch-Vishniac, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
McMaster University, Office of the President, Gilmour Hall, Room 238
McMaster University
1280 Main St. W., Hamilton, ON. L8S 4L8

Dear President Deane and Provost Busch-Vishniac,

I am writing today on behalf of the University of British Columbia Librarians' and Archivists' Association (UBCLAA) to add our voice to the concerns already expressed by many library and faculty associations over the comments and actions of McMaster's University Librarian regarding the McMaster University Library. I am also writing to express our support for the McMaster University Academic Librarians Association in what can only be a discouraging work environment.

In the years of the current University Librarian's tenure, librarian positions at McMaster have been eliminated and the overall number of librarians greatly reduced. Indeed, the UL, Jeff Trzeciak, has stated publicly that in the future he will likely not be hiring librarians with ALA-accredited MLIS degrees for McMaster University Library, but rather will be hiring non librarians (namely, IT specialists and Ph.D. graduates to fill the role of librarians).

As has been expressed by the Association des Professeurs de l'Université d'Ottawa (APUO) "[t]hese statements disregard standards and policies fostered by ACRL and CAUT. Through his words and actions, [Trzeciak] dismisses the role and responsibility of librarianship in advancement of research and learning in higher education in Canada and abroad."

We are encouraged by your recent decision to review the University Library, and hope that this will also include a review of the University Librarian as well as meaningful consultation with the MUALA.

On behalf of the University of British Columbia Librarians' and Archivists' Association
Sincerely,

Bronwen Sprout, MLIS
2010/2011 UBCLAA President

CC: McMaster University Academic Librarians' Association