



Library Advisory Committee (LAC)

Minutes – Draft

Date: Monday, January 12, 2026, Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Abbotsford Campus, Building A, Room 203B (hybrid via Teams)

Chair: Keith Carlson

Present (in person): Colleen Bell, Dr. Lolehawk Laura Buker, Janelle Sztuhar, Vahid Tadayon, Brenda Philip, Samantha Gibbs, David Milobar, Bilal Faisal Faheem, Kenley Neufeld, Robert Baschak (Minutes).

Present (via Teams): Alan Reid; Martin Warkentin, Sebastien Huebel, Keith Carlson (Chair), Heather Compeau, Kirsten Hargreaves, Alison Pritchard-Orr, Declan Roshea, Meghan Hilton (Student guest presenter).

Regrets: Allison Kilganon; Trevor Murray.

1. Welcome, Territorial Acknowledgement, and Introductions

- The Chair, Keith Carlson, called the meeting to order and welcomed members. He outlined the role of the Library Advisory Committee as a forum to share information about library initiatives and to provide guidance and support for the library's priorities.
- A territorial acknowledgement was offered recognizing that participants were joining multiple campuses, including Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and Mission. The Chair acknowledged the ancestral and unceded territories connected to these campuses and reflected on the histories of the Chilliwack (Ts'elxwéyeqw), Sumas, Matsqui, Kwantlen, and related communities along the Fraser River. He emphasized UFV's shared responsibility to support reconciliation and to build respectful relationships with Stó:lō peoples as they reassert self-governance and community resurgence.

- Introductions were completed by members attending both in person and remotely. The Chair noted the strong turnout and thanked the Library Administration for outreach efforts.

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved as presented and passed by consensus.

3. Approval of Minutes – October 7, 2025

The minutes of October 7, 2025, Library Advisory Committee meeting were approved as presented. Moved by David Milobar, seconded by Kenley Neufeld, carried by consensus.

4. Collections Update – Martin Warkentin, Collections Librarian

- Martin Warkentin provided a detailed overview of the library's collections budget and planning context. He reported that, while no mid-year reductions have been required in the current fiscal year, the upcoming year is expected to be lean due to institutional budget pressures.
- Historically, the Library has addressed budget reductions by making significant cuts to department allocation of funds in order to preserve core subscriptions and major resources. For the coming year, department allocations may be reduced by as much as half, with the intent of maintaining continuity of key subscription resources wherever possible.
- Martin outlined several mitigation strategies, including the review and cancellation of redundant or underused subscriptions, tighter controls on demand-driven acquisitions, and increased mediation of streaming video licensing (e.g., Canopy). He noted that several low-use journal titles have already been cancelled, which should help reduce pressure next year.
- Members were encouraged to make use of remaining department allocation of funds in the current fiscal year and to submit purchase requests with next year's needs in mind. Martin highlighted that funds allocated to support zero-textbook-cost initiatives remain largely unused and invited faculty to suggest resources that could reduce student costs. <https://libguides.uflv.ca/oemgp25/ztcmonographfund>
- Updates were also provided on specific resources, including changes to ProQuest's e-book purchasing model (eliminating perpetual purchases), developments with National Film Board access following changes to its platform, and the status of the Digital Scholar Lab digital humanities tool. Martin noted ongoing technical issues with Digital Scholar Lab but emphasized its potential value for digital humanities work and expressed interest in offering future training workshops.
- The topic of weeding was discussed, with Martin noting that systematic weeding has been delayed in recent years due to staffing disruptions. He emphasized that weeding remains a necessary collection maintenance activity and confirmed that faculty

consultation is part of the discard process. The possibility of coordinating with the Internet Archive for discarded titles was also mentioned.

5. Library Update – Kenley Neufeld, Acting University Librarian

- Kenley Neufeld provided a comprehensive update on library operations, budgeting, and strategic planning. He reported that the library was required to identify approximately \$206,000 in budget reductions from its approximately \$5 million operating budget, with impacts primarily absorbed through collections and position vacancies.
- Kenley noted that the Associate University Librarian position remains vacant, and that additional staffing uncertainties are pending the outcomes of voluntary departure program incentives and potential involuntary departures. Interim leadership appointments have been extended through the end of April, with longer-term planning still unclear.
- Kenley reviewed progress on the library's strategic goals, noting that approximately 40% of annual goals have been completed. Remaining goals include development of a sustainable student engagement strategy, functional role mapping for librarians, modernization of the collection policy (last reviewed in 2011), review of the reference services model, and continued work on space planning.
- Completed initiatives include an environmental scan of comparable institutions, publication of the Library Annual Report, improvements to LibGuides practices, and selection of a new interlibrary loan platform to replace a system nearing end-of-life. Training and implementation of the new platform are expected by May.
- Kenley also highlighted recent collaborations and activities, including program review support, teaching and learning partnerships, Indigenous Film Festival support, Open Mic Night events, Open Education Week planning, staff professional development focused on wellbeing, Science Café programming, and the Mission Campus art installation ceremony celebrating commissioned works by Stó:lō artist J. Luke Pike.

6. Indigenous Studies Project Presentation – “We Learn Together”

- Janelle Sztuhar, Dr. Lolehawk Laura Buker, and student presenter Meghan Hilton delivered a detailed presentation on the “We Learn Together” project, an Indigenous-focused, monthly curated resource initiative hosted through the Library's LibGuides platform.
- Dr. Buker described the project's origins, vision, and cultural grounding, emphasizing the importance of bringing Indigenous knowledge, research, and ways of being into curriculum across disciplines. She highlighted the project's commitment to reciprocity, relevance, and community accountability.
- Meghan Hilton, a Bachelor of Arts student in Indigenous Studies, spoke about her role through a capstone project. She described her contributions to research, audio production, resource curation, accessibility planning, and content development, and reflected on the value of collaborative, student-as-partner learning. Janelle Sztuhar outlined the library's role in supporting the project through platform infrastructure, copyright guidance,

accessibility considerations, and digital publishing support. The presenters demonstrated the LibGuide structure, monthly themes, audio introductions, and downloadable resource guides.

- Members expressed strong support for the initiative and discussed future possibilities, including expansion through capstone courses, partnerships with Teaching and Learning, and involvement of students from other disciplines such as media arts and film.

[Tóltset Ye Sp'eq'ó LAC Presentation.pptx](#)

7. Library Advisory Committee Meeting Frequency

- The Committee discussed whether LAC meetings should be held monthly or every second month. Members reflected on the advisory and informational nature of the Committee's role, the importance of effective communication back to home departments, and workload considerations.
- Consensus emerged in favor of continuing with meetings every second month, with the understanding that additional meetings could be called if required (e.g., for budget-related consultation). Members emphasized the importance of consistent meeting dates to support teaching and service planning.
- Tentative next meeting dates discussed included March 10 and May 12, 2026, with calendar invitations to follow.

8. Announcements

- Open Education Week (March 2–6, 2026): Teaching and Learning will host three events, including two online sessions and an in-person Open Education Celebration with the anticipated launch of the Open Education Strategy, pending approval at Dean's Council on February 2.
- ConnectED 2026 (April 29, 2026): Teaching and Learning Centre announced its upcoming conference with keynote speaker Dr. Juanita Archibald, UFV Chancellor. The call for abstracts is open. <https://www.ufv.ca/connected/>
- Peace and Reconciliation Centre Event (January 22): Members were encouraged to promote an upcoming presentation on research into children who did not return from residential schools and the rise of denialism. [Taking Care of Our Children.png](#)
- Writer-in-Residence Launch: The Library is co-hosting the 2026 Writer-in-Residence launch with UFV English on January 13 in the flex maker's space.

9. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The Committee agreed to meet again in approximately two months unless an emergency need arises. The meeting was adjourned.

The University of the Fraser Valley is situated on the unceded traditional territory of the Stó:lō peoples. The Stó:lō have an intrinsic relationship with what they refer to as S'olh Temexw (Our Sacred Land), and we express gratitude and respect for the honour of living and working in this territory