

TRUSU Budget Consultation 2020-2021

- submitted by Kathy Gaynor, University Librarian

Study Space:

- The Library is a shared space intended to accommodate diverse student learning and studying needs, including both solitary and collaborative study. Because the Library is, for the most part, an open area in which sound travels easily, noise must be limited out of respect for those who need quiet. The University Library worked with Facilities and MarCom to acquire 14 of study pods that were placed in the House of Learning Library creating a much needed zone for semi-private study. This new furniture, coupled with the signage that clearly identifies that level of noise that is appropriate, has helped create clearer space use expectations. Library staff are proactively wandering the HOL Library space educating students on the new sound expectations. While much of the sound concerns in the House of Learning are still present – the building materials (glass and concrete) and the sound emanating at the foot of the atrium makes further sound control difficult.
- In the Main Library, where sound concerns are not as prevalent, the library embarked on increasing the flexibility of the existing space by installing electrical outlets to all of the tables so that students have more options to study and plug in their electrical devices.

Open Education Resources

- The University Library, Open Learning and the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching were successful in securing funding for 2 years of OER Development Grants. 8 projects per year are funded potentially saving students \$198,236.00 in textbook costs per year. Grant recipients benefit from the expertise of the Open Education Librarian who can assist with identifying and evaluating suitable OER and with the application of Creative Commons licenses. CELT consults with grant holders on curriculum development and course designers, while fostering a community of practice. Open Learning provides grant holders instructional design expertise, support in technology and educational media, and text editing and layout.

Course Materials

- Over the summer, the University Library renovated low use staff space in the Main Library and expanded the Course Reserves area. The outcomes of this project saw a doubling of the shelving capacity for course reserves, but the library also transformed the course reserves service from a mediated service to a self-service area. Students can now directly pick up their course reserves, check them out or scan them to email, even when library services are closed during midnight hours for exams. Feedback to this renovated space and service has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Complementing this renovation, the University Library changed how materials are placed on reserves. Rather than passively waiting for faculty to visit the library and request materials be put on reserves, the library is now proactively going through course outlines and, where possible, automatically putting materials on reserves for courses.
- For the last year, the University Library has been collaborating with the campus bookstore and TRUSU to establish a systematic course textbook program. This program seeks to buy textbooks, which meet a selection criteria, for 1st and 2nd year courses. This proposal is seeking funding from the University's Strategic Investment Fund.