

2014/15 President's Report

Overview

It has been another active year for LAUW. We offered a diverse selection of programs, held two votes (one relating to non-voting membership for LAUW and one on academic status), wrapped up our Research Road Trip initiative, refocused our academic status efforts, and much more.

Members

This year LAUW welcomed Marian Davies, Rebecca Hutchinson, Courtney Earl Matthews, Effie Patelos, Nick Richbell, and Ian Robson. We said goodbye to Andrew McAlorum, who moved to IST, and Jane Britton, who retired after 40 years in the Library.

Programs

LAUW Programs Chair, Rachel Figueiredo, organized a wonderful line-up of programs in 2014/15 that included talks 6 talks on topics ranging from equity on campus to mentorship to research project processes to open access. Now in its fifth year, the LAUW Journal Club met 4 times this year. LAUW also hosted 5 celebrations to welcome 6 librarians.

LAUW Research Road Trip

The LAUW Research Road Trip wrapped up this year. Initiated in 2013/14, the Research Road Trip was intended to provide interested librarians with an opportunity to participate in small-scale research projects that would provide them with experience with all of the stages of the research process – from idea creation to research dissemination. Three projects were undertaken during this time on the topics of the flipped classroom, student satisfaction with research consultations, and faculty/researcher/student format preferences (online vs. print). Although not all of these projects were completed during the Research Road Trip timeline, the initiative was a practical introduction to the research process.

FAUW Connections

Shannon Gordon completed her first year as LAUW's FAUW Representative. She provided input on behalf of LAUW on FAUW matters and provided the FAUW Board with regular updates relating to LAUW's academic status efforts over the course of the year. She also participated on the FAUW Subcommittee on Communications.

Laura Bredahl acted as the Library's representative on the Status of Women & Equity Committee (SWEC). SWEC's activities this year included awarding the annual Equity and Inclusion Award, successfully advocating for an elevator to be included in the Hagey Hall expansion, hosting a number of events, creating a Disability sub-committee, and monitoring equity issues regarding salary and hiring practices at UWaterloo.

LAUW Votes

LAUW Exec held two votes for LAUW members during the year. The first vote related to this proposed addition to the LAUW Constitution, Article IV: Membership, Section 1:

“Librarians working at Conrad Grebel University College, Renison University College, and St. Jerome’s University are eligible to join LAUW as non-voting members. Additionally, individuals who have completed their library degrees and are currently working in permanent or contract positions either within the University of Waterloo Library or at the affiliated universities/colleges’ libraries are eligible to join LAUW as non-voting members.”

Sixteen members were present for this vote, with 12 votes needed to pass the motion. The vote did not pass, as we received 11 in favour, 5 against. A number of questions were raised during the preceding discussion – including what are the benefits to voting members? should LIS students be invited to attend the AGM? and can non-voting members sit on committees on behalf of LAUW? – and there were concerns that the issues needed to be better outlined before a decision could be made.

The second LAUW vote asked professional librarians to respond to the question: “Do you support LAUW Executive exploring the possibility of academic status for University of Waterloo Librarians?” The numbers were overwhelmingly in favour of exploring academic status for librarians with 27 responding “yes,” 2 “no,” and 2 “abstain.” Three librarians did not participate in this vote.

Academic Status

In 2012/13, LAUW investigated what academic status could mean for Waterloo librarians with respect to working conditions, probation/tenure, and governance. In 2014/15, we resumed academic status efforts after holding a series of academic status discussions and an academic status vote (described above).

LAUW Executive has begun to explore this issue with librarians and the FAUW Board and has prepared an academic status document. The first draft of this document has been reviewed by all librarians and the FAUW Board members. The document is currently being updated to incorporate librarians’ feedback. It aims to draw upon evidence and capture many of the points that have been raised during LAUW’s academic status discussions. Once this document is updated and reviewed again by librarians, LAUW Exec will bring it to the FAUW Board and discuss next steps.

Library Admin – LAUW Connections

LAUW Executive met with University Librarian, Mark Haslett, for lunch in July. Topics discussed included LAUW programs, Excellence Canada, plans for another TUG Conference, proposed non-voting membership for LAUW, and academic status for librarians.

Librarian 2 Librarian

Now in its fourth year, L2L provides Waterloo librarians with informal, confidential connections between librarians about career-related issues: <https://librariansassociationuw.wordpress.com/l2l/>. Thank you to our 2014/15 L2L volunteers Annie Bélanger, Pascal Calarco, Anne Fullerton, Alison Hitchens, and Christine Jewell. Annie, Pascal, Anne, and Alison will be continuing as volunteers for the coming year. Although this service was not heavily used, many of the volunteers reported mentoring librarians informally over the course of the year. LAUW Executive will aim to increase awareness of this L2L program moving forward.

Librarians' Activities

LAUW continues to post librarians' professional activities on its website:

<http://librariansassociationuw.wordpress.com/librarians-activities-and-accomplishments/>. Like the L2L program, this service could benefit from additional promotion in the coming year. If you are interested in having your accomplishments added to the list, fill out the form on the bottom of the page.

LAUW Executive

Thank you to this year's LAUW Executive members. I'm grateful to Jessica Blackwell, Secretary; Shannon Gordon, FAUW Representative; Agnes Zientarska-Kayko, Treasurer; Kathy Szigeti, Compensation Chair; Jane Forgay, Past President; and Rachel Figueiredo, Programs Chair.

Annual reports by the other LAUW Exec officers are available on the LAUW website:

<https://librariansassociationuw.wordpress.com/minutes/>

All the best to the 2015/2016 LAUW Executive!

Nancy Collins, LAUW President 2014/2015