



∴ ontario college and university library association

November 10, 2015

McMaster University Academic Librarians' Association
c/o McMaster University Faculty Association
Hamilton Hall, Room 103A
McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton ON L8S 4K1

Dear Ms. Banfield:

On behalf of the Ontario College and University Library Association (OCULA), I am writing to express our support of the McMaster University Academic Librarians' Association (MUALA) negotiations for the fair and equitable academic rights of librarians at the University.

It is disheartening to learn that the academic status, benefits, compensation and overall rights of university librarians are being threatened by the University Administration given that, like their faculty colleagues, librarians possess advanced academic credentials and are an integral part of the teaching and learning infrastructure at a research university.

Librarians are an essential component of higher education. Librarians assist faculty to develop research assignments by ensuring there are adequate and exemplary resources for students' teaching and learning. Librarians also help faculty to integrate online resources and library technology into their teaching, and they support research projects both at the faculty and university level. Librarians collaborate with teaching faculty to develop students' information and digital literacy skills, which are critical for students who will work and live in an information economy.

It seems unreasonable and misguided to assume that the academic rights of librarians to participate in academic affairs would be any different than that of other academic staff at McMaster. Librarians keep abreast with pedagogy and trends in higher education, often sharing innovative tools and strategies that help support student success and strengthen the academic teaching and learning communities. We hope that MUALA's negotiations will result in academic librarians being treated as equitable partners in the academic life at McMaster University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name "Shanna Pearson".

Shanna Pearson
2015 President, Ontario College and University Association