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DATE: January 17, 2012

TO: McMaster Community

FROM: Patrick Deane, President  
Ilene Busch-Vishniac, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

RE: McMaster Library Review

We have commissioned the first formal review of the McMaster University Library, which will take place in late March. The review will be conducted in a similar manner to the periodic reviews of all academic programs that the University undertakes. Given the role that our libraries play in our core learning and discovery missions, we believe that an external review is not only appropriate, but critical to informing strategic plans for the future of the Library. The timing of the review, at the start of the second five-year term of the University Librarian is also appropriate.

The review will assess the current situation, in historical context, and provide advice for the future development of the Library. We are very pleased that we have seven external reviewers who will visit campus for two days, Monday, March 26 and Tuesday, March 27, 2012, to conduct the on-site component of the review. The Review Team will meet with various constituencies with an interest in the Library, including Library management, Library staff, students and faculty. Open meetings will be established so that all interested parties are able to speak with the committee. The review team will also have access to a self-study of the Library, which includes statistics about budgets, holdings, usage, personnel and performance. The findings of the review team will be formally submitted to UPC and Senate in the same way as for academic program reviews. We will, of course, also share the findings with Library management and staff and with interested members of the McMaster community.

Information about the membership of the Review Team and the McMaster Library Review process are available at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/vpacademic/priorities.html>.

We look forward to using the results of the review to further guide and develop the Library in its support of the core learning and discovery missions of the University.