The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by general consent.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 22 November 2018

The minutes of the meeting of 22 November 2018 were approved by general consent with one correction.

3. University Library Update – Sheldon Armstrong, Associate University Librarian

Sheldon Armstrong, Associate University Librarian, presented for Susan Parker. By way of staffing updates, he reported that activity in the search for a Deputy University Librarian was about to begin and that in the search for a Library Development Director, interviews were about to happen.

A member asked if these searches typically look at local people or advertise broadly, noting that housing prices are a big issue recruiting from outside the city in the academic departments. The response was that the searches for senior library staff are conducted on a North America-wide basis. A number of offers have been turned down citing housing prices among the reasons. It is a problem. A member asked if the Librarians are considered to be faculty members and if they would qualify for the faculty housing plan. The response that this was true for the Librarians but not for the development director. In any case, a move to UBC would be attractive move and there is a lot of movement in the academic librarian sector.

With regard to the strategic framework for the Library, this was in the planning stage. Stakeholder engagement had occurred in October 2018 with students, staff, and employees all involved. A report had been generated from that engagement. Themes emerged to guide the process of the strategic framework committee, with members of committee leading the discussions. The aim is to align the Library strategic plan to the University strategic plan.
The presenter turned to a slide providing an update on the university collections which are now 84% electronic including databases, journals, eBooks. Demand for streaming video is rising across faculties. There is an evidence-based acquisitions program to purchase eBooks, the program allows UBC Students and Faculty to gain access to more titles than the Library could afford to buy. With Wiley and Taylor and Francis there are big deals to open access to their entire catalogues to students and faculty and just titles with evidence of use are purchased. We look at statistics for usage as well as incorporate Librarian input to help inform purchase decisions. EBooks that are purchased are owned perpetually by the Library. The catalogue is open, and costs are spread across the resources that are in high demand and those more rarely accessed. Publisher cost increase is steady at 3.5% on average, but that is lowered by some of the larger Big Deal packages that are coming in at a lower rate. There is a worry that publishers of these packages will raise inflationary rates in the future to offset the current low rates.

The exchange rate is always a concern when we think of what happens at the end of a three year deal and we need to think about renegotiation. Looking forward at this issue, 85% of our purchases are priced in US currency – with a penny drop in exchange rate we lose $100k in buying power. We have hedging strategies with finance that are helping. Our list of requested subscriptions is lengthy. The four eJournal Big Deal packages (Elsevier, Wiley, Springer and Taylor & Francis) that the Library subscribes to account for 35% of our serials budget. A useful analogy to think of this pricing model is that of the cable packages for home TV – you have to purchase the package to get the few desired channels.

Based on metric alone, downloads, the highest-used items are titles in the Science, Engineering, Technology and Math disciplines. We need to consider interdisciplinary needs and opportunities for working with fellow institutions so that we can leverage better. For the things that we don’t subscribe to, we could use transactional licenses. If someone in a course needs access to something we don’t have a subscription to, they could buy a license for the copyright to use in that course. Last year the Library adjusted workflows to explore potential purchase costs before proceeding with a transactional license. By choosing the more economic option, the Library has saved roughly $10K this fiscal year.

There is also a statutory review of the Copyright Act coming up. English institutions in Canada operate under an interpretation of fair use copyright, which is undergoing mandated 5 year review by parliamentary committee, one of which is the Heritage Committee. The publisher lobby would advocate for the fair deal interpretation revoked. We are working with Universities Canada to counter-lobby these efforts. The Provosts on both campuses are committed to preserving these rights, and are spending lots of time with office of the University Counsel on this file. There is a federal election coming up and what happens after that is unknown. Interlibrary loan is allowed in most of the Library license agreements, but usually restricted to other Canadian academic institutions.

A member asked on the issue of high-usage versus low-usage materials, do we have granular data as to who uses the low-usage items? This could be high impact people with unique research and lab activity. The response was that there is no access to this at the moment; usage statistics are anonymous and collected by publisher. We know that low use does not imply low importance. We need a process to retain an interdisciplinary approach. Not everyone can get everything but we need to ensure fairness and thoughtfulness when we approach these problems.
The Committee thanked the guest for his presentation.

4. **Adjournment and Other Business**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm and members were given a tour of the Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS).