This past year the Coutts Library Advisory Committee met twice on October 18, 2016 and March 1, 2017. It has been challenging to find a time when all members may attend but we did have excellent attendance for the two meetings this past year and they were most useful from my perspective as Chair. We achieved a great deal in a short time and I very much value the feedback, suggestions and ideas provided by the group not only at meetings but via email throughout the year. Coutts Librarians and colleagues from the Library system contributed to these meetings by providing updates and demonstrations in areas in which they specialize. The terms of reference of this committee did not change.

Last summer, we welcomed new and returning members as well as an undergraduate and graduate student. Our membership this past year changed as James Park, on behalf of Colleen Rizzoli attended our winter meeting since Janet Welch has now left the University of Alberta.

Priorities identified by the committee were the ongoing issues relating to the challenges of providing access to K-12 electronic textbooks and learning resources and providing regular updates on library services, spaces and resources as well as gathering important feedback and advice from group members. One very useful meeting (March 1, 2017) was dedicated towards obtaining feedback from Advisory Committee members about research impact services. Thank you to Allison Sivak for facilitating this most helpful and enlightening discussion. Librarians Debbie Feisst & Katherine Koch reported on University library wide initiatives on how UAL is addressing TRC recommendations in the Library including a resident project, staff training initiatives, collection development and the Library “Decolonizing description working group” of which Debbie is a member. A more detailed update will be presented at the first meeting in August 2017.

James Park provided an update on changes to EDU 210 and of current activities and initiatives at Technologies in Education. The Library is working on a collaborative project to possibly develop a guide for EDU 210 and continues to look for opportunities to collaborate with technologies in Education.

Debbie Feisst reported on a successful and comprehensive fall instructional program at Coutts. All students in EDU 100/300 had a library session aligned to their assignment. We will seek Advisory Committee member feedback on topics/content and the best timing for graduate student library sessions in the coming academic year.

Kim Frail updated the group on the Wiedrick digital collections work. This is an exciting initiative that involves the digitization of K-12 Alberta historical textbooks. Updates and discussion also focused on library integration into EDU 100/300, 211, 210 and 410, library in e-class,
foundational tutorials, textbooks on reserve and new initiatives offered by the library such as laptop/equipment lending.

This past year Coutts Librarians provided updates to the Advisory Committee. We thank the committee members for taking information forward and seeking feedback from their departments.

I will be on professional leave from July 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 and Debbie Feisst will be taking over as Head of the Coutts Library and Chair of the Library Advisory Committee.

Our goals for the coming year are:

1. To obtain feedback on best practices for marketing and communication. Faculty of Education communications staffers and the Library’s new communication manager Meredith Bratland will be invited to a meeting in the fall
2. To update on the Library response to the TRC
3. To encourage member input into library activities regarding instruction, services, spaces and collections.
4. Our book club “On the Same Page” will be postponed to 2018 as Dr. Jonathan Anuik is on sabbatical.

I would to sincerely thank the committee members that contributed this past year: Jonathan Anuik, Trudy Cardinal, Alison McInnes, James Park, Adam Worrall and David Lewkowich as well as my esteemed colleagues, Kim Frail, Debbie Feisst and Allison Sivak. A special thanks to the students Carla Lewis and Jacinta Buencamino for their attendance and participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Koch

June 14, 2017