



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

Meric S. Gertler, FRSC
Dean

28 September 2010

Dr. Harriet Sonne de Torrens
Chair, Librarians Committee
University of Toronto Faculty Association
720 Spadina Avenue, Suite 419
Toronto ON M5S 2T9

Dear Dr. Sonne de Torrens:

Thank you for taking the time to write and express your concerns about academic planning in Arts and Science, particularly in relation to the outstanding research collections in the University of Toronto Libraries. The Faculty fully appreciates the University's investment in these collections and their importance for vital programs of teaching and research. There is a long history of support from Arts and Science for the library system and its numerous specialized collections.

I would encourage you and your colleagues to read the full Faculty of Arts and Science Academic Plan at www.artsci.utoronto.ca. It provides an important context for the priorities and goals of our planning process. The Strategic Planning Committee recognizes the critical place in our programs of teaching and research of languages and of the humanistic disciplines—including literary history and theory, cultural studies, and social and intellectual history—that draw on advanced language study. As you know, the Committee was of the view that a proposed School model has potential to enhance research and teaching activities, by fostering greater collaboration and creative interaction between the constituent units, within an administrative structure that was less resource-intensive and more effective.

My office is keen to engage colleagues in dialogue about the proposals concerning languages, literatures and related topics arising from the Academic Plan document. As my 10 September 2010 memo to the Faculty underscores, I very much welcome constructive suggestions and discussion of possible alternative means of achieving the Faculty's strategic goals. The Faculty has already begun a process of full public discussion of the Academic Plan and its detailed proposals, including those related to a proposed School. I will continue to consult with the relevant unit-level administrators, faculty members, students, and others with an interest in this matter. Both the proposals themselves and the nature of any alternatives will be fully and genuinely deliberated upon by our community in the coming months. My office will ensure that the views and concerns of all relevant stakeholders are part of the deliberation on the proposals.

I welcome your interest and thoughts as we move forward in this process.

Sincerely,

Meric S. Gertler, FRSC
Dean and Professor of Geography and Planning
Goldring Chair in Canadian Studies

cc: Cheryl Misak, Vice-President and Provost