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Sad news of the passing of Librarian Kent Weaver

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It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of our esteemed colleague, Kent Weaver. Kent retired in 2013 following an extraordinary forty-year career with the University of Toronto Libraries. He first joined the University as an Archivist in May 1973, and was involved in the first negotiations for the Policies for Librarians in 1978. Later he transitioned to the John P. Robarts Research Library as an Academic Librarian, where he served as Manager of Systems Operations for Information Technology Services.

It is with immense respect and deep gratitude that we commemorate Kent's decades of remarkable contributions to the profession of Academic Librarianship, the University of Toronto Faculty Association (UTFA), the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) and the Ontario Colleges and Universities Faculty Associations (OCUFA). His tireless advocacy for academic librarianship consisted of working to establish the UTFA Librarians' Committee and gaining a seat for the committee on the UTFA Executive in 2003. Within UTFA he served as Chair of the UTFA Librarians' Committee, Vice-President of External and University Affairs and later Chair of the UTFA's Retirement Committee.

Kent's advocacy for academic communities extended provincially and nationally on matters concerning governance and academic freedom. He served on the CAUT Librarians' and Archivists Committee and was Vice-President of External Affairs at OCUFA. "In a "watershed event" for Canadian academic librarians, Weaver, along with Dr. Toni Samek of the University of Alberta, undertook at "both professional and personal risk," the first CAUT investigation into issues of academic freedom for librarians. Their investigative work contributed to many of the subsequent changes in academic staff rights and working conditions of librarians employed by McGill University Library" (CAUT Bulletin, 2026). Kent's decades of advocacy was acknowledged in 2012 with the CAUT's Academic Librarians' Distinguished Service Award; and in 2021 Kent was awarded the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada award for his exceptional contributions and/or achievements of retirees (faculty, librarians, and staff) to their host institution or to the community.

Kent's guidance and principled stance will be greatly missed.

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