



University House 2, 3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria, BC, V8P 5C2
T: 250.721.7939

May 25, 2021

Ana Serrano
President and Vice-Chancellor
OCAD University
100 McCaul Street
Toronto, ON M5T 1W1
aserrano@ocadu.ca

Dear President Serrano,

On behalf of the University of Victoria's Faculty Association, and the Faculty Association's Librarians' Committee, I am writing to express our concern over the restructuring that has occurred at the Dorothy H. Hoover library that has resulted in the layoff of four long-standing librarians without any collegiality or consultation, and the elimination of two additional positions.

Of particular concern is the follow-up statement issued by the OCADU that tries to justify this decision by claiming it "...aligns with the decolonization approach by flattening hierarchies and promoting a peer-to-peer environment". This statement is a misappropriation of the term decolonization and undermines other libraries and academic institutions who are actually decolonizing their environments. The purpose of decolonization is to ensure a more equal and inclusive world rather than to de-professionalize academic librarianship.

UVic FA urges you to reconsider the decision to eliminate the six librarian positions and reinstate Marta Chudolinska, Alex Homanchuk, Victoria Sigurdson, and Daniel Payne, and the 70+ years of knowledge they represent.

Sincerely,

Jessica Mussell
Co-chair, University of Victoria Faculty Association Librarians' Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Mussell".

Lynne Marks
President, University of Victoria Faculty Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynne Marks".

CC:

Jaime Watt, Chair, OCAD University Board of Governors, jwatt@navltd.com
Caroline Langill, Vice President Academic and Provost, OCAD University, clangill@ocadu.ca
Tony White, University Librarian, OCAD University, twhite@ocadu.ca
Min Sook Lee, President, OCAD Faculty Association, minsooklee@faculty.ocadu.ca
Chris Thompson, President, OPSEU Local 576, cthompson@ocadu.ca