

Update from the TGSA Executive Regarding the Bata Library Closure

March 20, 2017

Dear Graduate Students,

As many of you have heard, Trent University is planning to close Bata Library as early as April 2017.

The TGSA Board of Directors sent a letter regarding our concerns to library staff and Trent University administration. We have also sent TGSA representatives to attend vital committee meetings about the library renovations, brought our concerns to Senate meetings, and brought our concerns to the Colleges and Student Services committee.

So far, here is what we know:

- By May 1st the construction contract will be awarded to begin the renovations
- The library will be shut down before May due to the need for asbestos removal and to reduce the liability of keeping the building open during the renovations
- All library collections will be moved off site before the renovations can begin
- The books are not supposed to be removed until after exams have finished in April
- The reference collection and the periodicals are already being moved, and de-accessioned, along with older science-based books, which are considered out of date
- The old Shoppers Drug Mart on Aylmer St and Charlotte St will be open to students, and will contain the archives, microfilm, the map library, and MADGIC
- The entirety of the book collections will be located in the old Giant Tiger on Lakefield Rd and will not generally be accessible
- The Shoppers location is on the bus route whereas the Giant Tiger has no direct bus service
- IT will be moved to a location on campus, which has yet to be determined
- The books in Bata Library will be pared down by about 50%
- The book collections will be reduced in size by a bout 50% following the renovation, and this will allow the library a year to determine how best to reduce the collections' size while taking into consideration the many students and faculty who use them
- To use the library a service point will be located somewhere on Symons campus, so that students may pick up and return books as well as view "sections" of the shelf
- The purpose of the Research Clusters that are part of the library renovations will be to provide a space dedicated to some of Trent's current programs that lack their own space, such as the Trent Centre for Aging and Society

As of this writing, here is what graduate students have been promised:

- A software that will display books to the left and right of the call number of the book searched for in TOPCAT, in place by the summer, which will be similar to UofT's "browse shelf" function
- From May to September 2017 there will be a temporary service point on Symons campus for students to access library services
- A more permanent Symons campus service point will be located on the third floor of the new student center by September 2017
- There will be a truck that will go to the Giant Tiger to bring back materials to a service point on Symons campus twice a day
- Faculty and graduates will be able to browse the book collections at the Giant Tiger by appointment on a limited availability
- Library staff has taken it under advisement that graduate students need unlimited renewals for their books and have promised to initiate this during the closure
- The Symons colleges are being designated as study spaces while the library is closed; however, there has been nothing said about a specific study space for graduates at Symons campus during the renovations and this is still being negotiated

You may have seen the email about an Open House to present information about the Bata Library renovations on Thursday, March 30th from 12 noon to 6 pm in the Bata atrium. This is another opportunity for graduate students to discuss the library closure.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your TGSA executive at gsa@trentu.ca.

Sincerely your TGSA Executive,

Alexandra Ha, President
Alison Fraser, VP Internal Affairs
David Hollands, VP Communications
Anastasia Nepotiuk, VP Finance
Swarsattie Kishun, VP Student Affairs
Mackenzie Armstrong, VP Senator