May 22, 2019

TO: Librarians and Staff, Libraries
FROM: Janice Ristock, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
RE: Recommendation: Appointment of Ms. Lisa O'Hara
     Vice-Provost (Libraries) and University Librarian

I am very pleased to advise that, at its May 21, 2019 meeting, the Board of Governors approved the appointment of Ms. Lisa O’Hara as Vice-Provost (Libraries) and University Librarian effective June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2024. Ms. O’Hara will also continue to hold an appointment as continuing Librarian in the Libraries.

Ms. O’Hara received a Master of Library Science from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Manitoba. Currently, she holds the rank of Librarian and has served as Acting University Librarian since October 1, 2018. Since joining the University of Manitoba in 2002, Lisa has progressed through the ranks and has held several leadership roles including, Acting and Head of Technical Services, Head of Discovery and Delivery, Associate University Librarian, Collections and of Research Support Services. Ms. O’Hara has been instrumental in overseeing the work of several technological-focused projects in the libraries such as the implementation of a cloud-based library system and of the room booking system, self-checkout kiosks and reserve lockers. She also has led the work to establish a research support and digital strategies area and a centralized access services unit.

Lisa is an accomplished librarian and researcher focusing on ways to transform the libraries with an emphasis on technology including how information is discovered and accessed. Her recent work has been in the area of service support for Indigenous research and scholarship.

Ms. O’Hara has been an active participant on various university level committees including the Next Generation Web Experience Project Board, Senate Committee on Academic Computing, Senate Libraries Committee and the University’s Métis Working Committee. She maintains strong professional and community ties serving on the Canadian Association Research Libraries’ Creating Capacity Committee, the American Research Libraries’ Social Justice Project, the Manitoba Library Consortium, and L’Arche Winnipeg.
With Métis and European ancestry, Ms. O’Hara is deeply committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. She continuously explores learning opportunities to enhance her own competencies and while serving as Acting University Librarian she has piloted an Indigenous cultural competency training model she expects to expand across the Libraries system.

I am confident that her commitment to leadership, her innovative mindset and her deep commitment to Indigenous success will well serve the Libraries, my leadership team, and the University of Manitoba. Please join me in welcoming Lisa to her new role.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the appointment process, including members of the Presidential Advisory Committee and the many individuals who provided valuable input into this appointment.

cc: Ms. Lisa O’Hara
    Presidential Advisory Committee