



Ottawa, Tuesday 16 October 2012

Dear President Rock,

I would like to bring to your attention a problem that was recently faced by many faculty members, as well as by many graduate and undergraduate students: the loss of access, for more than 4 days (beginning on October 4 at 1:00 PM), to the electronic collection of the Library and, as you can imagine, the massive disruption that immediately followed.

Even though it was, according to an email sent by the Chief Librarian, "the first major incident since the service was cut in 2010", the length of the incident was a direct result of budgetary cuts coming from the Optimization report. In the words of the Chief Librarian, "CCS [Computing and Communications Services] are working in the problem, but owing to the Optimization budget cuts, the Library no longer has systems staff on call during evenings and weekends".

If problems with the system can be mostly unpredictable, the decision to not have the capacity to face them during evening and weekends seems most inappropriate. As you know, most faculty members do not work from 9 to 5, but also during the evenings and weekends. Obviously, the same holds true for graduate and undergraduate students.

APUO was highly critical of the choices made in the Optimization report when it first came out. According to our analysis, the brunt of the cuts contained in the report (which had very little to do with optimization of resources), were to be supported by the students and faculty.

We believe that uninterrupted access to the library electronic resources is necessary to properly support the research and teaching activities of faculty, and a fundamental condition for a meaningful student experience. Consequently, we urge you to reconsider these budgetary cuts in order to avoid a repetition of this problematic situation, and offer you our ongoing support to find alternatives to offset the budgetary impact.

Sincerely,

Christian Rouillard
APUO President