

Minutes for Senate Library Committee
Meeting of October 21, 2022
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Via Zoom

In Attendance: Lauren Collister, Myles Cramer, Luke Ferdinand, Charlotte Johnson, Gary Kohanbash, Isabel Lam, Lucy Russell, Kenneth Salzer, Karen Shephard; Joining later: Reid Andrews, April O'Neil

1. The September minutes, forthcoming, will be reviewed for approval at a later date.
2. The Committee welcomed student member Myles Cramer (GPSG), our newest and final addition to the 2022-2023 Senate Library Committee.
3. Spring Plenary Ideas – Shephard shared some of the ideas for a Spring Plenary that were suggested at a Senate Meeting in October and asked SLC members if they had others. Lauren Collister suggested a plenary on data privacy, particularly involving the surveillance of online resource user habits and data brokerage. “Not only is it creepy,” said Collister, “it’s a huge concern.” A major challenge for Universities (and their libraries) is determining what data is collected on student, faculty, and other researcher use of online resources and services (owned or otherwise provided) – and how that data is being used (sometimes sold). What information are database and service providers collecting from their users and what are they doing with it?
4. In advance of the meeting, members were asked to consider new topics for discussion and new focuses for the 2022-2023 academic year. Considering recent student concerns voiced in the *University Times* and in other venues about campus safety due to several recent attacks, Shephard asked if discussion of library access policies and security may be of interest. Librarian SLC members from a few of the university’s libraries shared their knowledge of some of the changes that have been implemented since the COVID-19 restricted access period ended, including access and hours of operation, security guards, Pitt Police walk-throughs, and related items. Luke Ferdinand suggested that the SLC invite representatives of the libraries to attend a meeting to discuss current operations so all are better aware of not only these topics but of other aspects, such as special collections, too. Shephard will work on arranging this.

Collister, expanding on Luke’s idea, suggested that representatives of various special libraries be invited to speak about their collections, such as the August Wilson Archive, the Horror Archives, the ULS Special Collections, and others. Isabel Lam suggested a program featuring Sports at Pitt. Some librarians thought of the Pittsburgh Memory Project, and the University Archive’s site, Documenting Pitt: Historic Records of the University – Pitt Athletics, currently covering from the 1950s-2010 or -2011. Isabel was thinking of a more current focus. Other resources, such as the Athletic Department, will be investigated for such collections. Collister, in a follow-up email, offered to reach out to some of the archives to learn of speaker interest and availability.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45.

Recorded and submitted by Karen Shephard