

Draft Minutes of Senate Library Committee
Meeting of December 13, 2022
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

In Attendance: Aidan Dean Dunn, Luke Ferdinand, Charlotte Johnson, Ken Salzer, Mark Bernstein, Isabel Lam, Apoorva Narain, Renae Barger, Susanna Leers, Linda Tashbook (guest speaker), Karen Shephard (chair)

1. Approval of November 30, 2022 meeting minutes was deferred until January to allow members time to review them and request changes. They were sent out earlier that morning.

2. Shephard provided an update on the progress of the SLC group working on the faculty profiles project, a series of short interviews of faculty with open scholarship or public-facing work that are to appear in the *University Times*. She reported having email correspondence with Mark Anderson, former SLC chair, and who is leading the project. Anderson said he planned to send out a poll to the initial interviewees (Martha Mantilla and Elizabeth Monasterios) within the next week to arrange for interview times and then will coordinate with those who volunteered to assist (Johnson, Cramer, and Shephard) to set a meeting time (online or in-person).

The Mantilla-Monasterios interview will serve as a model for others that are planned. They currently include Sheila Velez Martínéz of Pitt Law, and possibly [Alexandra Hildago](#) of Pitt's English Department (award-winning Venezuelan filmmaker, writer, theorist, memoirist, and editor) and Justin Kitzes of Pitt's Department of Biological Sciences (spatial ecologist and conservation biologist -- biodiversity resources including the [Kitzes Lab](#)). Suggestions for additional faculty to showcase are welcome and SLC members previously were invited to send their suggestions to the working group that is keeping an ongoing spreadsheet. The Series is just beginning and its future continuance depends upon the interest and success of these first profiles.

3. Next, Linda Tashbook, founder and chair of the University Senate's Mental Wellness Task Force and the Benefits & Welfare Committee, shared details on the Year of Emotional Well-Being Funding Opportunity. Charlotte Johnson, who is leading the SLC group developing the funding proposal(s), shared some of their ideas and Tashbook did as well, reflecting on prior accepted proposals and offering some new ones.

Upon hearing that one proposal being considered involved circulating wireless chargers, Kornelia Tancheva, Director of the ULS, stressed the importance that none of the proposals place additional demands on the staff at Hillman Library as they already are overstretched. Johnson and other working group members thanked her for alerting them to this concern and said they would consider other ideas, among them further development of a journaling workshop series proposal.

While winter break was just days away, Tashbook said there was plenty of time to develop proposals for the second group of funding awards that are due on February 1, 2023. The maximum award per proposal is \$5,000 with the YOEWB Committee awarding up to \$125,00 overall. She emphasized that the Provost wants to see programs that will have an impact and that are sustainable. Evidence of a need also is important, along with why a proposed program is special and relevant to libraries (for the SLC), she added.

4. Among other matters, members discussed students' need for more study space access. Luke Ferdinand said he expects positive changes in the future, possibly including more access to group study room.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Shephard