

Minutes for Senate Library Committee  
Meeting of January 23, 2020  
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM  
272 Hillman Library

In Attendance: Mark Lynn Anderson (co-chair), Jeff Aziz, Carrie Donovan (co-chair), Fern Brody,\* Becky Faett, Kate Gardner, Zach Horton, Gary Kohanbash, Jonah McAllister-Erickson, Clark Muenzer, April O’Neil, Anais Peterson, Mary Rauktis,† Nancy Tannery, Andrea Maria Sotomayor, Frank Wilson, Chunbin Zou.

1.  
Approval of Senate Library Committee (SLC) minutes for meetings of October 17 and December 12.

2.  
Introduction of attending SLC members.

3.  
Anderson mentioned that he had recently checked-in with Vice Chancellor of Policy Development and Management Thomas Hitter regarding the SLC’s formal request for the decommissioning of obsolete University Policies 10-03-01 and 10-03-03. Hitter had placed the request aside but promised to begin the decommissioning process soon.

4.  
Anderson presented a possible action for consideration by the SLC with respect to librarian representation on the University Research Council (URC), an advisory committee of the Provost’s Office that is helmed by Senior Vice Chancellor for Research Rob Rutenbar. Anderson has served on the URC for the last five years, and he described the sorts of, deliberations, advisement, and review work performed by the URC, almost all of which revolves around diverse questions of research at the University. He further described his numerous mentions at meetings of the URC—as well as in direct communication with both the past and present Senior Vice Chancellors of Research—of the appropriateness and practicality of having a representative of the University’s libraries serve on the URC, a suggestion that was always met with great enthusiasm but always followed by inaction and forgetfulness. Most members of the SLC were entirely unfamiliar with the URC, and Tannery promised to look into its operations under the Provost.

Anderson also mentioned that, according to the brief description on the University’s website, the URC is to include two representatives from the Faculty Senate, appointments about which Senate Liaison Wilson was unaware. Anderson suggested that the SLC send a brief memo to the Senior Vice Chancellor asking him to consider appointing a representative of the University libraries to the URC and offering to aid him further with this matter should he so desire such assistance. Muenzer ask if it wouldn’t be more appropriate to find out more about the URC and to establish the proper channels of communication. After some further discussion, Anderson offered to invite Rutenbar to a future meeting of the URC, to the February meeting if possible.

5. Anderson sought to return to an open discussion of issues or topics that the SLC might consider going forward. He mentioned Marc Silverman’s previous suggestion of looking into the redefinitions

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\* For Kornelia Tancheva

† Via remote participation.

of staff positions proposed under the Reshaping the Workplace initiative by Human Resource, with Silverman citing some anxiety and uncertainty about this process as voiced by the Barco Law Library staff. Tannery had subsequently circulated to SLC members a [link](#) to recent a *University Times* article about the initiative and the its goals.<sup>‡</sup> Wilson mentioned that Vice Chancellor David DeJong and his staff are currently making many presentations and holding listening sessions to address, among other things, the lack of opportunities for career development and staff attrition. He also mentioned that there was a need means for benchmarking for comparison against other peer institutions. Muenzer inquired whether there was some way for the SLC to help with the process, particular with respect to University library staffs, and he wondered whether the changes in job definitions might affect services. McAllister-Erickson didn't believe reclassifications of staff positions would impact services but that more generic descriptions would allow for easier job mobility of staff within the University. Brody concurred and said that reclassifications wouldn't dictate different activities, but benchmarking staff employment will be made easier. O'Neil described how she performs a unique job that no one else does, and that those duties do not in any way match the job description for which she was originally hired.

Kohanbash raised the issue of the anticipated new accessibility requirements for information and technology access being pursued by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Brody mentioned that efforts were already underway to prepare for this change, with Edward Galloway and Jeff Wisniewski working in consultation with Digital Accessibility Coordinator Angie Bedford-Jack; she also emphasized that the process would take time, but that the SLC may be able to assist the process at some point. Wilson pointed out that the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee is already working on these questions, and that accessibility expectations are currently under revision, in part, because of concerns raised at Faculty Assembly. McAllister-Erickson added that a timeline for implementation is currently unknown as are policy expectations. He then suggested that the SLC might instead consider the inaccessibility of digital collections because of outmoded file formats. Anderson asked if there was a ULS policy on platform archiving. Brody responded that ULS regularly looks for current platform possibilities for outdated media materials, and she added that their Digital Preservation Librarian, Kari May, is currently working on platform issues. McAllister-Erikson illustrated the problem of software preservation using the example of Windows 98.

McAllister-Erikson also brought up Open Access (OA) and subscription agreements as an ongoing concern for all research libraries, mentioning Carnegie Mellon University's recent transformative agreement with Elsevier. Rautkis expressed enthusiasm for the SLC to return to questions of publication fees, wishing to learn more about efforts such as consortiums that are working toward OA publication. Many members of the SLC were also interested in finding out more about OA from both the perspective of differently positioned researchers as well as from the perspective of libraries and research institutions. Anderson and Donovan suggested inviting Scholarly Communication and Publishing Librarian Lauren Collister to attend next month's meeting to address these issues by expanding upon a presentation she gave on rising subscription costs at a meeting of the SLC two-years ago.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 PM.

Draft minutes compiled and submitted by Mark Lynn Anderson  
Minutes revised and approved By Library Committee, February 20, 2020

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<sup>‡</sup> Susan Jones. "DeJong and HR team ready to move ahead on 'Shaping the Workplace,'" *University Times* 52:8 (December 3, 2019).