

Minutes for Senate Library Committee
Meeting of December 12, 2019
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

In Attendance: Mark Lynn Anderson, Jeff Aziz, Barbara Epstein, Kate Gardner, Marc Silverman, Nancy Tannery, Kornelia Tancheva.

1. Introduction of all attending Committee members.
2. Anderson noted the lack of a quorum and postponed the approval of the October minutes until the January meeting. He also briefly explained the necessity of having to cancel the scheduled November meeting due to unforeseen professional travel.
3. Anderson mentioned that the Committee's traditional meeting schedule of third Thursdays each month will conflict with several Senate Council meetings next term; he proposed a set of alternative Thursday dates, since three voting members on the Library Committee also have service obligations to Senate Council. The proposed new dates are the following Thursday afternoons from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM: January 23, February 20, March 26, April 23. Silverman mentioned that he is teaching a seminar on Thursday afternoons next term and will have to arrive late for all Thursday meetings. Anderson said he would run the new dates by the entire Committee membership before confirming with the Senate Office.
4. Anderson briefly described his most recent discussions and efforts to secure a librarian from one of the University's library systems to serve as the Committee's new co-chair on a pro tem basis. Carrie Donovan, who is Head of Public Services for Hillman Library and a liaison librarian for Communication, Computer Science, and Linguistics, has generously agreed to serve in this new positions and will begin regularly attending Committee meetings in January.
5. Anderson reopened the Committee's ongoing conversation about potential areas of sustained interest and investigation. He started by sharing with the committee a short, explanatory video that is available on the Get It! page of the ULS website, a piece that visually explains how materials in remote storage get to the Oakland Campus for pick-up and delivery. He pointed out how [Get It . . . Behind the Scenes](#) efficiently describes this process while virtually eliminating library workers from the frame, showing only their hands for the running length of the video. Anderson asked if there was perhaps a built-in difficulty in the promotion and explanation of library services that necessitated the erasure or diminution of the work performed by library staff and faculty, and whether this was a problem of promotion and outreach that might be pursued.

Silverman mentioned that a number of his staff had expressed concerns over the University's current project of redefining staff positions as part of the "Shaping the Workforce" initiative being conducted by HR. Tancheva questioned whether this was an appropriate area of discussion for the Senate Library Committee, while also describing, in general terms, why such uniform redefinition of positions was useful and needed. Silverman pointed out that the Committee was free to pursue any topics it might choose, and both Silverman and Tannery described some of the historical and institutional backstory of this current reevaluation of staff positions.

Because of the scant attendance, the meeting was adjourned early at 3:37 PM.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Mark Lynn Anderson
Minutes approved by Library Committee on January 23, 2020