

Minutes for Senate Library Committee
Meeting of April 23, 2020
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM
Via Zoom

In Attendance: Mark Lynn Anderson (co-chair), Jeff Aziz, Carrie Donovan (co-chair), Barbara Epstein, Katheryn Gardner, Jonah McAllister-Erickson, Zach Horton, Sue Jones, April O'Neil, Mary Rauktis, Marc Silverman, Nancy Tannery, Kornelia Tancheva, and Frank Wilson.

1. Because of a lack of a quorum at the meeting, it was decided that the minutes of the February 20 meeting would be subsequently approved by the committee via email.

[The minutes of February 20, 2020 were officially approved on May 8, 2020.]

2. Anderson introduced a resolution relating to the establishment of the pro-tem co-chair position on the committee. The resolution reads: *The Senate Library Committee postpones its required vote on the viability and usefulness of the newly-established pro-tem co-chair position from its April 2020 meeting until its meeting in December 2020.*

[Again, because of a lack of a quorum this resolution was subsequently voted on via email and eventually passed with a unanimous vote on May 8, 2020.]

3. Anderson brought up the need for an election and said he was willing to continue to serve as co-chair and secretary, but invited other nominations or volunteers. He then asked members to send nominations to Lori Moliano in the Senate Office by May 8, with a SLC committee co-chair election to follow.

[The email instructing the committee on conducting voting and the approval of minutes was sent out on May 1 and is attached as an Appendix 1. Anderson was reelected as co-chair and secretary by acclamation.]

4. Anderson updated the committee on the delivery of its memorandum to Senior Vice Chancellor of Research Rob Rutenbar requesting that he give consideration to appointing a faculty research librarian to the University Research Council. The memo was received by Rutenbar and Chief of Staff Michelle Amato on April 20, with Rutenbar contacting Anderson to say that he was amenable to such an appointment and that the absence of a representative from the University libraries was “a weird historical oversight.”

5. Barbara Epstein updated the committee on the operation of and developments at HSLs since the shutdown due to the pandemic. She described the transition of having most librarians and staff working remotely online with only a minimal number of essential personnel reporting to work. One outcome of the shutdown has been a marked increase in attendance at workshops with many new attendees who couldn't typically attend in person. Fifty-two online workshops have been conducted, while HSLs have supplied over 1600 interlibrary loan requests and retrieved over a hundred requested items from storage. Epstein also reported on preparations in applying for five-year grants from National Library of Medicine, as well as preparing for anticipated budget cuts.

Aziz asked Tancheva if all renovations on Hillman Library were on hold, with the latter confirming that the state has halted all construction.

6. The remainder of the meeting was given over to an ongoing discussion about Open Access (OA) and the Committee's possibilities in advancing OA at the University.

Tancheva noted that the OA landscape has shifted with COVID-19. First, the fact that publishers have provided free access during the pandemic defeats repeated arguments about platform restrictions. Furthermore, federal policy is supporting the immediacy of access to research, especially during the health crisis. Finally, given anticipated budgetary restrictions, OA could provide attractive cost saving. Wilson remarked that previously, when he presided over the Faculty Assembly (2015-2019), the Student Government Board (SGB) supported Open Educational Resource projects and Provost Beeson also embraced such initiatives.

Because Intellectual Property (IP) policy is currently under revision at the University, a question was raised if that policy might be a place for OA concerns. Tancheva pointed out that IP and OA are not incompatible. However, the IP Task Force is concerned with whether the University retains copyrights, and the entwinement of OA with IP might confuse the issue. What is required, in part, is a continuing educational campaign about author's rights and institutional repositories. It was noted that the Faculty Senate endorses open science.

Epstein said that if the Faculty Senate were to endorse a University OA Policy it would have to include a rider for faculty opting out. She also noted that when NIH came out with an OA requirement (with six-month embargoes), people became much more aware of OA issues. Epstein remarked that there has been a rapid uptick in making preprints available, though some restrictions have been required because of "junk research." Tancheva observed that authors are moving ahead of prepay publishing and she proposed that the peer review system may be affected either positively or negatively by these developments. Epstein says that budget restriction will pressure vendors to comply with OA developments. Tancheva mentioned that both UNC and SUNY have recently dropped their Elsevier subscriptions.

McAllister-Erickson and Tancheva discussed the American Institute for Conservation promotion of ways for faculty to adopt OA by creating and participating in independent research ecosystems that are more cost effective ways of promoting OA. Rauktis mentioned that scholarly communication librarian Lauren Collister visited the Department of Social Work to discuss OA issues and twelve to fifteen members of the department attended and appreciated the need to be attentive to access. Graduate students were particularly struck by the need to make OA a part of funding proposals. Wilson mentioned that he thought a resolution may have been passed after the SBG addressed the Faculty Assembly several years ago.* McAllister-Erickson noted how IP policy is tied into anxieties about control and that this is important to consider.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM

Minutes compiled and submitted by Mark Lynn Anderson
Approved in Committee, October 15, 2020

* Wilson later emailed cochair Anderson a brief history of these events. Anderson gained permission to share Wilson's email with the committee and it is attached here as Appendix 2.