

Minutes of the Senate Library Committee
Meeting of April 15, 2021
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

In Attendance: Mark Lynn Anderson, Jeff Aziz, Lauren Collister, Carrie Donovan, Barbara Epstein, Jonah McAllister-Erickson, Donovan Harrell,* Gary Kohanbash, April O'Neil, Mary Rauktis, and Ken Salzer, Marc Silverman, Kornelia Tancheva, Frank Wilson, and Laura Winters.†

**University Times* reporter.

† for Lucy Russell.

Excused: Reid Andrews, Seungil Kim, and Lucy Russell.

1. Anderson announced that faculty members Donovan, Muenzer, and Raukis were finishing their elected terms on the Committee, and he thanked them for their service. He mentioned that the current election period for standing committees was just about to get underway and that we would likely have three new members beginning next fall. Anderson also announced that, in order to continue its work on Open Access promotion and to plan for the coming academic year, the Committee will meet next month on the previously tentatively scheduled date of May 20.

2. Tancheva informed the Committee about University plans to soon consolidate three of the twelve ULS libraries: the Library of Biological Science and Neuroscience at Langley Hall, the Chemistry Library at the Chevron Science Center, and the Bevier Engineering Library. She noted that there had been a noticeable drop in visitors and the use of paper collections at the first two libraries well before the pandemic, with the majority of research conducted electronically. She noted that the three locations had only five staff members in total. These will be consolidated into a single location in Engineering, since the latter is the largest and most trafficked of the three. Tancheva said she is in conversation with the Provost and the deans and chairs of the Dietrich and the Swanson Schools about the consolidation. She also noted that the students in these areas have already been informed about the transition. It is unclear what will happen to the library space in Langley and the Science Center since they belong to the Dietrich School, but study space is always in short supply. Tancheva noted that the card reader at Hillman had more hits from chemistry students in seven months than the Chemistry Library had in one year.

Kohanbash asked if the overall numbers for library usage are time-specific, whether there were certain times of higher traffic for instance. Tancheva responded that there isn't that sort of breakdown in the data. Kohanbash also wondered about cafés or coffee-shop spaces in or adjacent to these libraries, and if there will be a loss of places to meet, relax, or grab a quick snack. He also asked if the new consolidated space would have any such amenities. Donovan was unsure about whether Langley currently had a coffee shop but thought that there was at least a cart. Tancheva thought that there was to be a small allocation for such as part of the renovation. Anderson wondered about how the consolidation might relate to the University's planned changeover to a Responsibility Center Management budget and what that might mean for University libraries more broadly. Silverman expressed how he is always saddened by the loss of

library spaces and asked about staff. Tancheva explained that no one is losing a job with the consolidation and noted that four staff members will be transferring to Engineering.

3. Anderson and Collister returned to the Committee's ongoing promotion of OA in relation to social justice and anti-racism. Collister described a meeting that she and Anderson had with Ryan Champagne, Assistant Director for Research Development, to discuss ideas that the Committee is pursuing related to OA funding at the University. The purpose of this meeting was to garner initial feedback on three possible promotions of OA by the Committee. The first idea was to see if it is possible for the current research funding provided annually by the Office of the Provost (Momentum Funds) to emphasize open scholarship, and if there might be developed a scale of grant evaluation for funding applications in terms of OA projects. Champagne was supportive of these ideas generally, though he was more uncertain about how open scholarship might become an evaluative criteria in the process. He was interested in how we might suggest language for the calls and application process, language that drew attention to how the University values open resources and scholarship, and so Anderson and Collister proposed to look at the current solicitations for the Momentum grants and then make suggestions on how these might incorporate "nudge language."

Collister and Anderson also discussed how they raise with Champagne the possibility of creating a special one-time grant category to support anti-racist research that was in some way tied to the open scholarship. Additionally, they proposed that the Committee was beginning to pursue a project of requesting the creation of a special funding to be used to support the open research of scholars of color. Specifically they proposed to Champagne the idea of attaching this support funding to the University's Race and Social Determinants of Equity and Well-being initiative to hire fifty faculty members across the University over the next four years, hires whose teaching, research and service seeks "to eliminate racial disparities in the social determinants of equity and to improve measures of well-being in the Pittsburgh region, nationally and across the globe." Champagne was again very responsive to these ideas but was particularly supportive of the later. He advised that such a proposal would be strengthened by:

- a. benchmarking it against similar successful projects such as the Open Education Resources (OER) grants that the Office of the Provost currently administers.
- b. linking it to institutional values such as those of the new Plan for Pitt; and
- c. having the proposal emphasize publicly engaged scholarship.

Anderson emphasized that such a funding pool could be used in the recruitment and retention of these future hires.

Rautkis mentioned how so much of what is done in Social Work is tied to the strategic plan and that the new plan is more supportive of their work than the older one. She mentioned how doctoral fellows have four thousand dollars available to them for open access publishing.

After a brief discussion, it was resolved that Collister would share with the Committee for their input the suggested emendations made thus far to the current Momentum Funds solicitation, before sending these to Champagne for consideration. Anderson said he would attempt initial

language for a proposal to create a open scholarship funding pool to support the University's current cluster hiring and retention initiative.

4. Epstein announced that HSLS will no longer be considered a Regional Medical Library, but that the National Library of Medicine funding has increased, even doubled to support staff and the library's continuing community engagement and citizen-science initiatives.

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 PM.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Mark Lynn Anderson
Minutes approved by committee via email, May 2021