Minutes for Senate Library Committee  
Meeting of April 18, 2022  
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM  
Via Zoom

In Attendance: Mark Lynn Anderson, Reid Andrews, Renae Barger, Mark Bernstein, Lauren Collister, Charlotte Johnson, Diana Khoi Nguyen, Ken Salzer, Karen Shephard, and Lucy Russell.

1. Anderson reminded Committee members that there will be a May meeting of the SLC before the summer recess.

2. Anderson described a forthcoming revision of the decade’s old policy on the uses of the University’s name, logos, trademarks, and service marks. Senate President Robin Kear has asked that a representative from the Senate Library Committee serve on the policy committee tasked with this revision, and Anderson requested that any interested faculty members on the Committee should contact him or Robin about serving.

3. Anderson reminded the SLC members of the upcoming Senate election and that three current members will be ending of their three-year terms this year: Aziz, Kohanbash, and himself. There will also be a need to elect a new faculty co-chair of the committee later in the spring.

4. The Committee then turned to continuing its considerations of how to promote open scholarship at the University, in order to create greater awareness of its place and importance in the present-day academy, but also to persuade the University administration about the need for greater support of and respect for open scholarship at Pitt. Andrews asked Collister what she viewed as the most successful efforts thus far in promoting OA at the University. Collister replied that by far the most effective means have been talks with faculty members in individual departments and programs where one can have a sustained conversation. A drawback to this is that one has to receive an invitation in order to have such a conversation. Anderson noted that significant time and effort is thus devoted to achieving such effectiveness. Collister also mentioned that plugging D-Scholarship into practices or procedures that were already in place has also been successful, where, say, integration of digital archiving into an existing workflow is a somewhat natural development, as has been the case with Engineering. She also noted the widespread excitement over the success of Open Educational Resources at Pitt. She described instances of more unsuccessful outreach, such as trying to involve DGSs in OA practices related to theses and dissertations.

Collister observed that successful open scholarship projects are obviously significant investments of time and labor, noting in this regard the podcast series of a Pitt law professor. Anderson reminded the Committee how, in their previously unsuccessful proposal for funding the open scholarship of cluster hires, a major obstacle to realizing the proposal was the sheer invisibility of the labor, time, and resources that went into publicly engaged scholarship. Shephard mention that Barco had attempted to spotlight such work via “Forbes Avenue Notes,” and she wonder if a case-study approach might be something we could pursue through a publication such as the University Times. There was wide support and enthusiasm for this prospect.

A brief discussion followed about such a possibility, and Anderson said he would attempt to contact folks at the University Times to see if one of them might come to the May meeting to
discuss such an opportunity further. He also volunteered to shepherd this initiative over the summer if it becomes a viable project.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM

Recorded and submitted by Mark Lynn Anderson