Minutes of the
Senate Library Committee
Meeting of October 18, 2023
3:00-4:00 PM

https://pitt.zoom.us/j/94967774412
Passcode: 840064

Present: Karen Shephard, Marnie Hampton, Charlotte M. Johnson, Luke Ferdinand, Lucy Russell, Andrew Lang, Katie Fitzpatrick

Guests: Ula Lechtenberg, Sera Thornton (and Jasper)

1. Housekeeping

Welcome guests, Sera Thornton (HSLS) and Ula Lechtenberg (ULS), who currently serve on the Provost's Standing Committee for Open Educational Resources.

Approval of September minutes--we do not have quorum, minutes will be approved over email. [NB: we realized after the meeting we did have quorum. CMJ]

Future meeting dates:
- November 9, 2023 (2:00-3:00 PM)
- December 6, 2023 (3:00-4:00 PM)

Looking for speakers for the other topics from last month:
- Programming highlighting the value of libraries as protectors of intellectual freedom and free speech
- Promoting recent transformative license agreements the ULS has been making with publishers.

2. 2023-2024 Project Ideas – Further consideration

In order to learn more about what's already going on at Pitt, the SLC is inviting members of committees at Pitt to come speak with us about topics we're interested in doing a project on. This month, Marnie Hampton, Ula Lechtenberg, and Sera Thornton spoke to the committee about Open Educational Resources (OER).

OER are one option faculty are using to help reduce the overall costs of textbooks for students. OERs are course materials that free, sharable, and adaptable. Faculty can create their own, or they can use materials created by other educators and adapt them to their course, instead of teaching to the book. OER are not just textbooks, but problem sets, videos, and other materials used for instruction.

The University Library System provides education about OER, along with assistance with

identifying appropriate existing OERs for faculty who want to adopt this practice, and even creating their own OERs.

The Provost's Standing Committee on Open Educational Resources was developed in 2018 out of a Student Government Board resolution and consists of teaching faculty, staff from the Center for Teaching & Learning and the University Store, librarians, and students. Their main function is to administer the OER Grant Program, which has to date funded 68 proposals for developing, adopting, and adapting OERs. They also partner with the ULS, the Center for Teaching & Learning, and the University Store to promote this practice and to collect data about OER usage at Pitt.

Further Reading:

- ULS LibGuide about Open Educational Resources
  https://pitt.libguides.com/openeducation

- University of Pittsburgh's community of practice on OER Commons
  https://oercommons.org/groups/university-of-pittsburgh-open-education-repository/12580/

- Canvas course about creating and working with OER
  https://canvas.pitt.edu/courses/124516

In addition to OER, the committee then discussed other models faculty can use to tackle the problem of overpriced textbooks, many of which the libraries participate in, such as licensing e-textbooks, course reserves, and interlibrary loan. How can we incentivize faculty to adopt these practices? Questions were also asked about tracking OER usage and the reputability of OERs

Where instructors can find community-vetted OERs:

- Open Stax https://openstax.org/

- OER Commons https://oercommons.org/

- MERLOT https://merlot.org/merlot/

- Open Textbook Library https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks

Guests were invited to raise suggestions for how the SLC can help promote and support these efforts.

Reach out to Marnie Hampton (hamptonm@pitt.edu), Ula Lechtenberg (url1@pitt.edu), and Sera Thornton (sera.t@pitt.edu) for more information, or if you're interested in participating!

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Charlotte M. Johnson