

Senate Library Committee
Minutes for March 22, 2018 meeting

Attending:

- Voting Members: Mark Lynn Anderson (A&S-English), Irene Frieze (A&S-Psychology), Elizabeth Mahoney (Computing & Information), John Mendeloff (GSPIA), Clark Muenzer (A&S-German), Mary Beth Raultis (Social Work), Susan Sesack (Neuroscience), Chunbin Zou (Medicine), James Oostein –SGB Representative, Chinmaya Lele-GPSG Representative (Computing & Information), Jonah McAllister-Erickson-Staff Representative (ULS)
- Pro-tem members: Marc Silverman (Law), Barbara Epstein (HSL)
- Chancellor's Liaisons: Nancy Tannery (Provost)
- Senate Liaison: Robin Kear (Senate Vice President)
- Guests: Fern Brody (ULS)

1. Introductions. Those at the meeting briefly introduced themselves.

2. Approval of February 8, 2018 Minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected.

3. Presentation by Fern Brody (ULS) of consultant recommendations for Hillman Library renovations. A report from the consultants is available and can be linked from public reinvention page (library.pitt.edu/hillmanreinvention). There is a direct link to document at: .

<https://www.library.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/exhibits/other/files/reinvention/Brightspot%20Report.pdf>

- We briefly discussed the materials on the library renovation progress website. Questions were raised about the plans for making a large open space on the first floor that allows one to see the second and third floors. Funding for this has not yet been approved, so this is more an idea at this point than a definite plan. There is a decision to have fewer books and much more space for both private study and for group meetings. There may be changes in the exterior of the building but this is not yet finalized.
- Overall, people were concerned that the consultants' report did not appear to have much information specific to the situation at Pitt. Much of the background information appeared to be relevant to any university library in the coming years.

- A guiding idea in the report was the need for flexibility in terms of how space is arranged. Space may need to be used in different ways during the day and future needs may also be different than what is needed now.
- Another guiding idea was that librarians and the services they provide should be more visible to those who use the library. Office space will be located in public areas.
- A concern was raised about the need for soundproofing with the addition of more open spaces and group meetings such as workshops. (Marc noted that noise was an issue in the Law Library that they needed to address. Barb pointed out that they make earplugs available for all library users). Committee members suggested that noise-cancelling headphones be available for checkout.
- It was not always clear what data were used to make recommendations. There is a detailed Appendix that contains information about interviews and group sessions conducted, as well as survey data. This information has not been made publically available. Committee members questioned the decision not to release it. Fern explained that the participants were promised anonymity but the appendix contains personally identifiable information that has to be removed before the appendix can be publicly removed.”
- One change that has already occurred is that there will no longer be private spaces for faculty use. It was noted that these spaces were not being well used when they were available earlier.

4. Discussion of how we might educate the faculty about open access

publication. Have we made any progress on this? John noted that, over the last few years, additions to Pitt’s open access repository have not increased very much. Perceptions of the value of open access appears to vary across fields. He suggested that the Library try to identify and address the needs of the different fields as opposed to treating all fields the same. He volunteered to set up a meeting at GSPIA for this discussion. Fern said that there would be help on this from ULS staff.

- Ideas about incentives and problems with open-access publishing were briefly discussed, but the topic was tabled for a more detailed discussion at a future meeting.

5. Discussion of future agenda items for April 12 meeting.

- a. Discussion of how to best highlight new books
- b. Discussion of situations in which library holdings are not readily accessible.
- c. Selection of new chair or co-chairs for next year.