

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA UDC RESOLUTION NO. 2023-33**

**SUBJECT: TENURE APPROVAL FOR MICHAEL FITZGERALD, PROFESSOR,  
LEARNING RESOURCES DIVISION**

**WHEREAS**, Professor Michael Fitzgerald, Associate Professor in the Learning Resources Division (LRD) of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), has petitioned the University to be granted tenure in the department in which he is qualified; and

**WHEREAS**, the Learning Resources Division's Departmental Evaluation and Promotion Committee in conjunction with Director Melba Broome has conducted a thorough review of Professor Fitzgerald's academic background and records of achievement in teaching, scholarship, and university and community service and have recommended him for promotion from Associate Professor to the rank of full Professor and for tenure; and

**WHEREAS**, the Learning Resources Division's Departmental Evaluation and Promotion Committee in conjunction with Director Melba Broome have judged Professor Fitzgerald to be an excellent professor with outstanding skills and expertise in his field who meets the criteria by which University of the District of Columbia faculty are evaluated, based on the 8<sup>th</sup> Master Agreement, noting he is a highly accomplished member of the LRD faculty, a dedicated librarian with a focus on both students and faculty researchers, an important contributor/collaborator with the Washington Research Library Consortium, and an excellent scholar in his own right, with wide community engagement that makes him an asset to UDC; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Academic Officer and the President have affirmed the recommendation of tenure for Professor Fitzgerald from Director Melba Broome and the appropriate Committees, and the President has forwarded the recommendation for tenure to the Board of Trustees;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia approves the award of tenure to Michael Fitzgerald, Learning Resources Division, at the rank of full Professor.

Submitted by the Academic & Student Affairs Committee:

August 30, 2023

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

September 12, 2023



Christopher D. Bell  
Chairperson of the Board

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER —

LAWRENCE T. POTTER, JR., Ph.D.  
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Ronald Mason, Jr., J.D.  
President

FROM:   
Chief Academic Officer

DATE: April 30, 2023

RE: Recommendation: Professor Michael Fitzgerald for tenure and promotion to the rank of Professor

President Mason:

Guided by the *Eight Master Agreement* and criteria established by the Learning Resources Division—Library for promotion and tenure, I have reviewed the portfolio and supporting documentation submitted by **Professor Michael Fitzgerald for promotion to the rank of Professor.**

As Chief Academic Officer, my review aims to evaluate evidence of significant and relevant achievements in scholarship/creative work, teaching, and service. In addition, I review the self-narrative to ensure alignment between established standards and evidence provided within the portfolio. I conduct my review of each applicant after the files have been reviewed by the Chair, DEPC, CPC, Dean, and URC (in cases where an appeal is filed). Based on a holistic review of recommendations and the file, I make an independent recommendation to you for consideration.

Mr. Michael Fitzgerald arrived at UDC in the role of Electronic Services Librarian in 2009. **He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2015 and is applying for promotion to Professor with tenure.** He has master's degrees in Library Science and Music. **His past three annual LRD Director reviews have received 4, 3, and 3.** Prof. Fitzgerald has therefore met the eligibility criteria for ratings and time in rank.

Chair: N/A  
DEPC: Strongly Recommended  
CPC: Strongly Recommended  
Director: Recommended (1 of 1)

**JOB PERFORMANCE:** Professor Fitzgerald presents evidence in his narrative of major accomplishments that have greatly assisted the division and its users. During the pandemic, he played a major role in helping to facilitate the changes and workflow resulting from UDC's move to nearly 100% virtual. Professor Fitzgerald worked tirelessly in helping to support a variety of LRD online services. Especially noteworthy was that Professor Fitzgerald played a leading role in helping to develop the "Low-Risk Learning Zone" on the sixth floor of building 4250, which created a safe place for students to study on campus—

a vitally important resource, especially in terms of connectivity, for students restricted from many other spaces on campus. During this reporting period, Professor Fitzgerald continued to manage the Alma/Primo LibInsight electronic resources management tools. Even during the height of the pandemic, thousands of unique electronic book titles and unique electronic journal titles were added. Further, several new database subscriptions were added, such as *Drama Online*, *Social Explorer*, *JoVE Biology, Chemistry, and Physics*, *Black Life in America*, *Ethnic Diversity Source*, *JoVE Education Unlimited*, *Sage Research Methods*, and *Statista*—in addition, he added four new collections in JSTOR Arts and Sciences. Because LRD does not currently have a Metadata Librarian on staff, Professor Fitzgerald co-manages (with Metadata Librarian Jacqueline Saavedra of the WRLC) the LRD digital repository on the Islandora platform, which primarily hosts content provided by the Felix E. Grant Jazz Archives. Professor Fitzgerald has also advised on issues such as physical space redesigning and the relocation of the UDC Library. Professor Fitzgerald also helped the UDC Law Library in its migration and Alma/Primo VE implementation.

**SCHOLARSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Professor Fitzgerald documents evidence of involvement in virtual workshops and conferences and, through his scholarly work, continues to produce new research projects documenting Jazz in Washington, DC. He belongs to several professionally relevant organizations, such as the American Library Association (ALA) and the Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC). He stays current in areas of interest by attending several electronic workshops, such as those presented by the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) and the training provided by the WRLC Electronic Resource Committee. His outreach efforts to advance the visibility of the Jazz archives have led, in several cases, to subsequent donations to the archives and stronger ties between community participants and the university. One instance of such a connection is especially noteworthy because it developed into a major scholarly accomplishment. A presentation by [Blair Ruble](#) on the topic of [U Street](#) led to a series of meetings to discuss collaboration for a book on jazz in Washington. This came to fruition. With Dr. Ruble and Dr. Maurice Jackson of Georgetown University serving as editors, the book was published by Georgetown Press as *DC Jazz: Stories of Jazz Music in Washington, DC*. (2018). Professor Fitzgerald contributed a chapter, “Researching Jazz in Washington, D.C.,” which has served as a springboard for an ongoing research project documenting people and places in an online *Encyclopedia of DC Jazz*. Professor Fitzgerald has presented at 11 conferences since his promotion to associate professor in 2015. In 2018 he and his co-author revised/updated *Rat Race Blues*, which is the definitive biography of saxophonist and composer Gigi Gryce. Since 2015 he has participated in 60+ interviews, creative projects, media appearances, exhibits, and similar activities. Since 2015 he has published articles and book reviews in the following journals/outlets: *ARSC Journal* (7 pieces in this semi-annual publication of the Association for Recorded Sound Collections), *Current Research in Jazz* (1), [ArtFarmer.org](#). (1), and *Jazz Times* (1). I have read one of the book reviews Prof. Fitzgerald published in *ARSC Journal*, and it is an excellent example of the finest scholarly book reviews in any field—exceptionally well written with evidence of expertise throughout. Finally, since 2015, Prof. Fitzgerald has also attended well **over 100 professional development classes/training sessions** to support his currency in the field.

**SERVICE:** The **DEPC** observes that Professor Fitzgerald “has consistently presented a record of strong service” and then details several items that follow in Director Broome’s assessments. **Director Broome** commends Professor Fitzgerald for being “active on several Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) committees, task forces, and interest groups, including his WRLC Alma Advisory Committee and the WRLC E-Resources Committee, which addresses issues related to electronic books, journals, and databases.” At LRD, Professor Fitzgerald has most recently chaired a librarian search committee for a new Cataloging/Metadata Librarian, and he continues to work with Jazz Archives on several initiatives, including increasing the available online content that had been created from past jazz events, since no Jazz Forum events were possible in Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 due to COVID. Noteworthy here (again) is Professor Fitzgerald’s role in standing up for the UDC Jazz Forum series, which he proposed soon after arriving at UDC. Over the years (halted only by COVID), fall and spring forums have been presented, recorded/preserved. These Jazz Forum events promote the archives and university to the public, and the recordings have become an important dimension of UDC’s archival collection. Over the past seven years, Prof. Fitzgerald has served on several librarian search committees, including the 2016 MSCHE Self-Study steering committee and co-chair of the “educational activities committee.” He has also served on the UDC Honorary Degree Committee, and in 2020 he received UDC’s Faculty Excellence Award for Service.

### **Summary Evaluation**

Professor Fitzgerald has letters of reference from four external reviewers: jazz musician **Bill Kirchner**; jazz writer, editor, archivist, and producer, **Dan Morgenstern**; Archivist at the New York Public Library, **Matthew Snyder**; and **Dr. Marc Medwin**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Performing Arts, American University. I will quote from two of these letters. **Mr. Kirchner** calls Professor Fitzgerald "*sui generis*," saying he has "*innumerable reasons to recommend Mr. Fitzgerald as a professor at UDC. He richly deserves such a promotion. His unique and distinguished work as a jazz scholar merits no less.*" **Dr. Medwin** states that he "*met Michael in 2007 while pursuing my doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill [and] became aware not only of his extraordinary knowledge concerning music in many manifestations but of his deep interest in its multivalent histories and attendant research. . . . Through [his many] endeavors and the can-do personality guiding them, as much as any teacher can, [Prof. Fitzgerald] has helped me, several of my students, and the jazz community at large toward a deeper knowledge of the music that has been so important to him and to us. For the impact he and his work have had on all of us, I am delighted to support his application for tenure and promotion to the rank of professor.*" It is evident that the other two supporting letters echo the sentiments expressed here. By all accounts, Professor Fitzgerald is a highly accomplished member of the LRD faculty. He is a highly dedicated librarian with a focus on both students and faculty researchers, an important contributor/collaborator with the WRLC, and an excellent scholar in his own right. **Therefore, I concur with all recommendations and external reviewers in supporting Professor Fitzgerald to be tenured and promoted to the rank of Professor.**

The electronic dossier is available for review. Send an email request to the Office of the Chief Academic Officer at [CAO@udc.edu](mailto:CAO@udc.edu).

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I, Ronald Mason, Jr., President of the University of the District of Columbia, APPROVE   X   DENY           

the recommendation to promote Professor Michael Fitzgerald to the rank of Professor with tenure, and

recommend him for approval to the Board of Trustees.

  
Signature

5/11/23

Date

cc: Professor Michael Fitzgerald  
Albert Pearsall, President, UDCFA  
Lorinnsa Bridges-Kee, Vice President of Human Resources



## FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TO: The Board of Trustees

FROM: Managing Director of Finance *David A. Franklin*

DATE: August 30, 2023

SUBJECT: Tenure Approval for Michael Fitzgerald, Learning Resources Division (LRD)

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### Conclusion

It is concluded that no fiscal impact is associated with granting tenure to Professor Michael Fitzgerald, currently Associate Professor of the Learning Resources Division (LRD) of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). While not a school or college of UDC, LRD is a critical academic unit and platform for the University's students, faculty, staff, and the larger UDC community. The proposed resolution is for the approval of tenure for Professor Fitzgerald at the rank of full Professor.

The LRD's Chair, Department Evaluation and Promotion Committee (DEPC), and College Promotion Committee (CPC) have conducted thorough, independent reviews and prepared independent reports to the Director, Melba Broome, regarding the tenure for Professor Fitzgerald. It was then considered at the Director's, Chief Academic Officer's (CAO) and President's levels. It has been recommended in the Board Resolution that Professor Fitzgerald be approved for tenure.

### Background

Professor Fitzgerald joined the LRD as an Electronic Services Librarian in 2009 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2015. The CAO reviewed all recommendations and Professor Fitzgerald's portfolio (which includes external reviews of his qualifications). All reviews validate the strengths of his tenure and promotion dossier and conclude that he is a highly dedicated librarian focusing on both students and faculty researchers, an important contributor/collaborator with the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC), and an excellent scholar in his own right, making him a very competitive tenure candidate. Additionally, he has demonstrated a strong record of service to the University community.

The Director, Chief Academic Officer, and President have affirmed the recommendation of tenure for Professor Michael Fitzgerald. The President has forwarded the recommendation and background information along with a resolution for the award of tenure to the Board of Trustees.

### Financial Impact

This request has been approved based upon the information provided. There are no anticipated risks at this time.