Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications (LASC)
Minutes of Meeting
October 26, 2015

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications met at 1:30 pm on October 26, 2015 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Karl Ryavec presiding.

I.   Chair's Report
- Chair Ryavec welcomed members of this newly-created standing Senate committee to the inaugural meeting.
- He then updated committee members on the October 23 UCOLASC meeting. The main topic of discussion at UCOLASC was open access and its effects (all campus Senates were invited to opine on open access in AY 14-15).   Systemwide Senate Chair Dan Hare also attended and provided an overview of the legislative process and the role of the systemwide Senate.
- Chair Ryavec then asked LASC members for input on the best method of communication between faculty members/LASC and the library. Librarian Li agreed that communication is critical and he is holding meetings with faculty members and the Vice Provost for the Faculty (VPF) to engage faculty members and assess their needs.   He and his staff are working on creating a liaison system, which is a communication structure for the library similar to that of other academic libraries. Chair Ryavec requested an update on this plan at the spring semester LASC meeting.
- Chair Ryavec then raised the issue of the availability of print books. A LASC member pointed out that the library does not possess several core textbooks and resources needed for STEM fields, specifically computer science. While students could purchase textbooks from the bookstore, this is often cost prohibitive. Moreover, students need access to a myriad of textbooks that are common in the field and not necessarily required by the UCM course in which they are enrolled. Chair Ryavec inquired whether the library could consult a

comprehensive list of core resources and books in all fields. Librarian
Li replied that the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries does
maintain such a list. He agreed that the library should be equipped
with books in core fields but to make such acquisitions more efficient,
he recommended that graduate students and graduate group chairs
submit their reading lists to the library and the library will make every
effort to acquire the basics titles.

- Chair Ryavec then moved to the topic of advocacy with regard to the
  library budget. Librarian Li reiterated his aforementioned statement
  that the library will try to obtain the basic texts required by faculty
  members and students, but the library is constrained by a budget that
  has not grown commensurate with the growth in faculty and student
  numbers over the past four years. In addition, several requested
  resources such as medical journals are quite costly and are unavailable
  as online packages. Mr. Li recommended that faculty members consult
  their deans on the best way to advocate for increasing the library's
  budget. LASC members made several suggestions such as creating a
  webpage for faculty members to list their requested resources; the
  library would then analyze the responses and gauge the most pressing
  needs. Another suggestion was to consult other UC campus' lists of
  the most frequently checked out books and journals over the last
  several years and use that as justification for the need to provide the
  library with additional funds to purchase the needed materials. A
  LASC member recommended that the committee align its request for
  increased funding to a strategic, long-term plan and frame the request
  in such a way that shows the historic problem of the under-funded
  library and the need to rectify it.   Librarian Li related that he spoke
  with the Provost/EVC about the possibility of allowing new faculty
  members to allocate part of their start up funds to purchase their
  requested books and journals. However, the library wants to develop
  a collection that benefits the whole campus, not just individuals. The
  school deans are in the best position to negotiate start up funds with
  the Provost/EVC and the faculty candidates.

- A LASC member mentioned that UCB reference librarians told him that when their campus offered to provide UCM with duplicate copies of books, the offer was declined. The Library should hire additional staff to complete tasks such as the intake and filing of such books.

ACTION: LASC to write a memo to the Provost/EVC and Senate Chair to request that the issue of the library budget be accepted as an agenda item for the next deans meeting.

- Chair Ryavec then raised the topic of digital publications and archiving. Librarian Li stated that he met with Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (VCORED) Sam Traina about this issue and they agreed that if faculty members have to publish in open access journals, then faculty members must be provided funds to do so: some open access journals charge fees as high as $15,000 for publishing in their forums. While some faculty members in STEM fields can include this budget in their grant proposals to extramural funding agencies, faculty members in the humanities lack this opportunity. Another issue is that despite open access being implemented across the UC, faculty members still must publish in the traditional, core journals in their field for the prestige factor, as this is an important component of their academic personnel reviews. Indeed, publishing in these high quality venues, including those tied to professional associations, is critical for achieving promotion. Librarian Li conveyed that he and VCORED Traina agreed that the campus must set aside some funding to sustain faculty members who publish in open access journals. Mr. Li also mentioned that UCB is conducting a study on open access costs and it will share the data with UCM once the study is finished in spring 2016.
- Lastly, Chair Ryavec introduced the topic of Project 2020 and inquired about the library's plans. Librarian Li acknowledged that library space is not currently in the 2020 plan; rather, there are discussions about "backfill space" which refers to the nascent plans to convert the whole third floor of the library into academic space. Chair Ryavec pointed

out that if the campus wants to increase its book collection, then it needs the physical space that is currently used by administrators on the third floor. Librarian Li also stated that the 2020 plan includes considerations for living and learning spaces, including those in the dormitories. A LASC member suggested that the campus space advisory committee should be consulted on the timeline of the "backfill space" plan, if such a plan is to be implemented in the future.

II.   Report from the University Librarian
       Librarian Li debriefed committee members on the following topics:
   • Library strategic plan. The library is formulating a strategic, long-term plan rather than submitting yearly budget requests as was done previously. Librarian Li appointed a library committee that he tasked with formulating a strategic plan; in addition, he plans to engage the services of an external consultant on how to effectively work with student and faculty constituencies. The plan is scheduled to be in place before summer 2016.
   • Short term planning proposal. Prior to this meeting, Librarian Li distributed to LASC members the short term proposal that he submitted to the Provost/EVC. The underlying theme is that the collections and operations budgets are a major challenge for the library given the increase in student enrollment and growth in faculty numbers. The planning proposal includes requests for funding to support new and existing faculty members and increased library staff support. Specifically, the four positions requested are: Library Marketing Coordinator (Research Services), Decision Support & Assessment Specialist (Operations), Outreach Specialist (Digital Assets), and Metadata Specialist (Digital Assets).

III.   Report from the AVC of IT/CIO
       Prior to this meeting, AVC Kovalchick distributed several documents pertaining to the governance process that is being instituted to advance IT decision-making. Ultimately, the IT website will be updated to include information on this process.

LASC members inquired about any future plans to "embed" an IT member in each bylaw 55 unit or across more than one unit. AVC Kovalchick replied that there are various challenges in implementing the embedding model, so at the present, she and her staff are focusing on core IT issues. She added that she hopes the future Director of Academic Technology will begin to identify academic IT needs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Attest:

Karl Ryavec, LASC chair

Minutes taken by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Analyst