

**COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY & SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION (LASC)**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**AY 2016-2017**

To the Merced Division of the Academic Senate:

In its second year of existence as a standing committee of the Academic Senate, LASC held a total of 2 regularly scheduled in-person meetings in order to conduct business with respect to its duties as outlined in UC Merced's Senate Bylaw [II.IV.4](#). Some additional business was completed via electronic mail discussions.

**Areas of Focus**

LASC narrowed their focus to two main issues this academic year:

- 1) *Library space and budget.* As the Senate committee tasked with making recommendations to the division on matters concerning the role of the university library, LASC members routinely consulted with the University Librarian, who serves as an ex-officio member of the committee.

LASC devoted a significant amount of time this year discussing a document drafted by the Library entitled UC Merced Library Space: 2020 And Beyond (hereafter the "white paper"). The White Paper states that in order for the Library to meet the needs of the 2020 project with an increase in the student and faculty population, space in the west wing of the Kolligian Library be reallocated to the Library. This additional space will position the Library to provide high quality services and collections, fill campus-wide gaps in digital scholarship creativity and innovation, and engage in fruitful collaborations with such potential campus partners as the Merritt Writing Program, Spatial Analysis and Research Center (SpARC), and IT. LASC agreed with these arguments with the rationale that the Library, as an academic unit, is critical to supporting and advancing the learning, teaching and research needs of faculty and students. The negative impact of the lack of Library space on undergraduate and graduate education as well as faculty research will only increase as the campus moves closer to 2020.

In December 2016, LASC voted to endorse the main recommendation in the White Paper that the west wing of the Library be reallocated for the use of Library space in order for the Library to carry out its mission to support the teaching and research functions of the university. LASC submitted a memo to this effect to the Senate Chair, for review by the Division Council.

In January 2017, Division Council responded to LASC to inform the committee that Council members were strongly supportive of the Library's vision for its expansion with the next phase of campus growth, and agreed that the Library is central to the mission of the university and its ongoing development must be a part of campus planning efforts. However, the Council requested clarification from LASC on the following components of the White Paper:

- 1) who is the intended audience?
- 2) how is the Library's vision linked to other strategic and space planning initiatives, including 2020?
- 3) what is the current and anticipated capacity for Library priorities? How would current capacity (space and resources) need to be re-configured and/or supplemented to sustain the emphases described in this 2020 plan?
- 4) are there plans and funds to relocate current occupants of the west wing, or budgeting to support the conversion of first and third floor spaces; and
- 5) how does the Library's vision connect to other institutional plans to address undergraduate space needs?

LASC worked closely with the University Librarian to formulate its response to Division Council, which culminated in a memo transmitted to the Senate Chair in February 2017. LASC's answers to the Council's aforementioned questions were as follows:

- 1) the White Paper was written at the request of Provost/EVC Peterson and former Assistant Vice Chancellor Abigail Rider for the consideration of the campus Space Advisory Committee;
- 2) the Library's vision for space is to be able to accommodate and support the various learning and research needs of our campus community. These include creating spaces for growing collections, collaborative learning,

social learning, individual learning as well as spaces for academic support and research facilitation. In particular, there is a greater need for more quiet study spaces;

3) with the rapid increase of our student population, there has been an increased high demand on library space, and at the beginning of each semester, all seats are occupied, and many academic/cultural events fill the calendar. The Library, in its current space, cannot meet the needs of the campus community as the intellectual hub as we continue to increase student and faculty numbers as part of the 2020 plan. In addition, now that SpARC is under the auspices of the Library, it needs to be included in the space planning process as well; and

4) plans are in place to develop a budget for necessary renovations to convert the West Wing as part of the Library expansion. Such funding will be critical to sustain the efforts to support student learning and other academic activities in the Library.

Upon reviewing LASC's response, Division Council transmitted a memo, in March 2017, to Provost/EVC Peterson, stating that the Council endorses the vision established in the White Paper for the Library's continued growth and development, while at the same time recognizing that realization of this vision will require fully integrating the Library into the campus' emerging integrative planning processes, including for space, budget, and FTE. Division Council also emphasized in the memo that it encourages regular assessment of the availability of study space, and associated planning, to meet demand going forward and integration of subscription costs into regular academic budget planning. Finally, Division Council asserted that the Library's role as an essential academic unit must be integrated into decision making as the campus' resource allocation and planning processes mature.

## 2) *Open Access 2020 Expression of Interest*

In response to the rising costs of subscription journals, the Max Planck Digital Library coordinated an international effort called "Open Access 2020" to convert the existing collection of scholarly journals from subscriptions to open access. The Expression of Interest document, part of the Open Access 2020 initiative and

signed by some UC campuses, declares the UC's commitment to large-scale implementation of free online access to and largely unrestricted use and re-use of scholarly research articles by the year 2020. The details of this initiative were discussed and agreed upon at the Berlin 12 Conference in December 2015.

LASC devoted much time to reviewing and debating various background documents related the Expression of Interest including communication from other UC campuses and UC librarians, a FAQ document, and a pros/cons document stating the benefits and pitfalls of UC campuses signing the Expression of Interest. A majority of LASC members ultimately recommended that UCM join other UC campuses in signing the Expression of Interest (not all campuses elected to sign, instead preferring to explore other open access publishing alternatives). The committee's memo to the Senate Chair in March 2017 stated that a key benefit in signing off on the Expression of Interest – besides the elimination of costly journal subscriptions – is the greater ability for UC scholars to conduct research through greater access to information and reducing re-use barriers (e.g. copyright/licensing restrictions). This is particularly beneficial for early career researchers to be able to publish initial results in order to obtain funding to maintain their research programs and advance up the career ladder. One pitfall of open access, however, is that such a model may hinder institutions from participating, particularly those known as the “global south” institutions where budgets are minimal and cannot absorb the article processing charges necessitated by Open Access 2020 model.

In its March 2017 memo, LASC left it to the discretion of the Senate Chair as to whether the issue of UCM signing the Open Access 2020 Expression of Interest should undergo full Senate review. The Senate Chair decided on this course of action, issued the item for Senate review, and by May 15, 2017, Senate committees had opined and submitted comments on this issue. This topic will be discussed by Division Council at its first meeting of the fall semester.

## **Consultation with University Librarian**

LASC benefited from consultation and input from the University Librarian on an array of topics. The Librarian shared with LASC the new initiatives launched by the Library this year, including 1) Library Liaison program, which is designed to enhance communication between the Library and faculty, and involves Library staff members being assigned to graduate group chairs and other faculty leaders to conduct regular communication on library-related needs. 2) Library Faculty Author Series, which features faculty members in all disciplines who would like to give talks on their publications.

In February 2017, Provost/EVC Peterson and newly-named Special Assistant to the Chancellor (former VC for Planning & Budget) Feitelberg issued a memo to the campus, outlining plans to empanel a campus wide Space Planning and Allocation (SPA) board. Division Council submitted a response to the Provost/EVC and the Special Assistant on February 27, 2017 that articulated its suggestions for modifying the Board's membership, namely the addition of the University Librarian and the Senate Chair. The Provost/EVC agreed, and the University Librarian was named to the Board. The Librarian will keep LASC members updated on the SPA board's business in AY 17-18.

### *Campuswide Review Item*

- LASC joined other Senate committees in reviewing the "Guide to Senate Committee Membership and the Purpose and Practice of Executive Session" document drafted by the Senate office. The guide's function is to clarify committee membership, member participation and rights, and the role of committee consultants and guests, including in relation to committee meetings and executive (closed) sessions. LASC endorsed the guide.

### *Systemwide Updates*

- LASC Chair Ryavec represented the committee on the systemwide University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC) and kept LASC informed of updates throughout the year. UCOLASC consulted with new California Digital Library Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director Günter Waibel on topics such as Senate Open Access and the Presidential Open Access

policies. Other topics at UCOLASC meetings included a preliminary discussion of systemwide ORCIDs and an update on journal licensing.

Respectfully submitted:

***LASC members:***

Karl Ryavec, Chair (SSHA) – UCOLASC representative

Yanbao Ma (SOE) – UGC representative

Michael Scheibner (SNS) – COR representative

Nancy Burke (SSHA) – GC representative

***Ex officio, non-voting members:***

Haipeng Li, University Librarian

Ann Kovalchick, Chief Information Officer and AVC of Information Technology

***Student Representatives***

Scott Nicolay, Graduate Student Representative

Andre Frise, Undergraduate Student Representative

***Staff***

Simrin Takhar