

Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications (LASC)
Approved Minutes of Meeting
November 8, 2018

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications met at 3:30 pm on November 8, 2018, in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Maria DePrano presiding.

Attendees: Chair Maria DePrano, Member Justin Cook, Librarian Haipeng Li, ASUCM representative Stevan Colin, and GSA representative Katherine Shurik

I. Chair's Report

Chair DePrano updated LASC members on the October 22 UCOLASC meeting. Main topics of discussion included:

- Consultation with systemwide Senate leadership
- Announcement on changes to policy with regard to UC employees' benefits to domestic partners. It is critical that domestic partners sign up so that they are ensured to receive their spouse/partner's benefits in the event of the spouse/partner's death
- Consultation with librarians on academic freedom. UC policies account for faculty's academic freedom, and faculty are governed by the faculty code of conduct. However, librarians and certain other academic appointees have no similar provisions.
- California Digital Library's software platform for the online archive is outdated, so the UC is doing a study on available alternatives. The UC hopes to collaborate with libraries across the country so that all can have access to the archive.
- Consultation with editors for journals published by UC Press and the head editor for UC Press. The main topic was open access, and a debate over whether electronic monographs are less prestigious than print ones.

Chair DePrano then updated LASC members on the status of the negotiations with Elsevier:

- The UC system is currently in negotiations to renew its contracts with some of the world's largest commercial academic journal publishers, including Elsevier—publisher of 17% of peer-reviewed journal articles worldwide.
- UC currently has systemwide subscriptions to approximately 1200 Elsevier journals through a so-called "big deal" contract. In a worst-case scenario in which negotiations completely fail, Elsevier could turn off UC's access to its journals as early as January 1, 2019.
- Chair DePrano encouraged LASC members to attend the faculty open forum hosted by the Library on November 14 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm in room KL 397.

A LASC member asked, if negotiations fail, what the UC would do with the funds that would ordinarily go to Elsevier. University Librarian Li responded that one option would be inter-library loan.

II. Consultation with University Librarian

Librarian Li provided LASC members with the state of the Library:

- The Library, like other units, is waiting for space planning decisions to be made. The Library hopes for additional quiet, student study space.
- The first phase of funding was received for the Library's furniture plan, and the Library hopes the second phase will become available so that the furniture plan can be brought to completion.
- The Library has been asked to participate in the academic budget planning process which is an important milestone. The Budget Work Group has asked the Library to create a funding model. Last year, the Library submitted a collections budget to the former Provost/EVC, and the Library hopes that that budget will now be addressed. The collections budget has not increased in ten years commensurate with faculty and student growth.

Librarian Li then provided an update on workforce planning:

- Librarian Li was invited to give a presentation to OES (comprised of vice chancellors and deans), a committee empaneled in a previous academic year to address campus workforce planning.
- His presentation identified four critical areas for the Library: 1) Library staffing (benchmarking); 2) Teaching and Learning (information literacy and student success); 3) Research Support (collections/archive growth and digitization management), and 4) FTE.
- The presentation included data such as the ratio of UCM library staff to students (Merced is far over the UC median), average number of library users during the peak time of 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, increase in library staffing, numbers on special collections and archive growth, and a list of library staff positions needed to meet demand on library functions through 2022.

ACTION: Librarian Li will share his presentation with LASC members after he has made modifications.

III. Consent Calendar

ACTION: today's agenda and the October 4 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Proposal to Revise Senate Bylaws to Expand LASC Membership

LASC members discussed Division Council's response to LASC's proposal to add additional, at-large members to the committee. Chair DePrano stated that she will meet with Division Council to discuss the response and next steps.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm

Attest: Maria DePrano, LASC Chair