

**COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS (LASC)
ANNUAL REPORT
AY 2018-2019**

TO THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

In AY 2018-2019, LASC held a total of four 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 focused on three main issues this academic year:

1) *Library Space and Funding*

LASC continued to assist the Library in advocating for adequate space and funding. In the absence of new Library space in the 2020 plan, LASC shared the Library's view that the next best outcome is to expand the number of quiet study spaces for students in the current Library space. Director of Space Planning & Analysis Maggie Saunders attended a LASC meeting in fall 2018 to announce that campus leadership approved the funding (derived from UCOP) for the Library furniture project required for the proposed addition of 180 quiet study spaces for students in the Library. The entire furniture/seating project is estimated to be completed in summer 2019 with the goal of installing quiet spaces on the fourth floor of Kolligian Library (KL) and non-quiet spaces on the second and third floors. The KL furniture plan also includes additional tables, study pods, and power sources. The Library is currently discussing how to configure the KL fourth floor collaborative rooms to establish quiet study space.

When LASC, along with other Senate committees, reviewed the proposed campus space allocation plan in fall 2018, committee members realized that the plan proposed allocating less than 30% (less than 15,000 square feet) of what the Library proposed in the proposal process. Furthermore, the plan indicated that the KL building will continue to be used partly for non-academic purposes rather than entirely for Library needs.

LASC and CAPRA collaborated on a memo to the Senate Chair that asserted that nationally, R1 research universities provide greater than 20 square feet of library space per student FTE (LS/FTE). UC Merced, on the other hand, provides only 9.95 square feet of LS/FTE. To bridge half the gap between UC Merced's current square footage of LS/FTE and the typical R1 allocation requires an additional 50,000 square feet of Library space. For example, our nearest UC peer, UC Santa Cruz, currently provides 13.33 square feet of LS/FTE, an allocation that UC Merced should aspire to equal if not surpass. The memo also reiterated that the Library is an academic unit that is critical to supporting and

advancing the learning, teaching, and research needs of faculty and students.

An important development occurred in spring 2019 when the Library was invited by the campus Budget Work Group to participate in the academic budget planning process. Both LASC and the Library staff were gratified that the campus has recognized the need for the Library to be included in future campus academic budget planning, especially given that the Library's collections budget has not increased in ten years commensurate with faculty and student growth. Librarian Haipeng Li reported to LASC throughout the academic year that there are 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.

LASC members remained supportive of continual advocacy for the Library to receive increased funding for collections and operational funding (the latter includes professional development, technology, and facilities maintenance) in the context of the campus's overarching goal of achieving R1 research university status.

2) *Proposed Changes to LASC Bylaws*

In the last academic year, LASC members proposed, via memo to Division Council, revisions to the committee's bylaws related to its membership. Currently, the members of LASC serve on the committee by a virtue of their roles on other Senate committees, namely CAPRA, CoR, GC, and UGC. While LASC has greatly benefited from their various perspectives on library issues, additional faculty should be permitted to serve on LASC based solely on their interests in library and related matters. LASC therefore proposed a new, at-large membership model with members appointed by CoC, as is done on other Senate committees.

In the current academic year, LASC Chair Maria DePrano consulted with Division Council on LASC's proposed membership model revision. Council submitted to LASC several pieces of input. Taking into account Division Council's suggestions, LASC submitted a revised proposal, with draft, modified bylaw language to Division Council in spring 2019 proposing that the committee consist of at least five Senate faculty members with broad representation from schools.

In spring 2019, Division Council endorsed LASC's proposed, revisions to LASC's bylaws for campus review. The goal is for the Senate office to issue the revised bylaws for campus review at the beginning of the fall 2019 semester, with the hope of adding the revised bylaws to the agenda of the fall 2019 Meeting of the Division for a vote of the faculty present. (If quorum is not achieved at the meeting, then an electronic ballot will later be issued to Senate faculty.) If the proposed bylaw revisions are approved in fall 2019, the revised bylaws containing LASC's new at-large membership model will be implemented for AY 2020-21.

3) *UC Negotiations with Elsevier*

Throughout the academic year, LASC monitored the contract renewal negotiations between the UC system and the publisher Elsevier. The UC has systemwide subscriptions to approximately 1,200 Elsevier journals. The UC's goals in the negotiations were 1) a reduction of the university's publication costs and 2) open access for UC faculty publications. To keep faculty apprised of the negotiations, Library staff and LASC jointly held an all faculty open forum in fall 2018, and periodically forwarded to faculty the various systemwide communications and updates.

In spring 2019, the UC entered into a pilot agreement with Cambridge University Press. Under the pilot agreement, UC campuses will have subscriptions to Cambridge's collection of over 400 journals, and open access will be the standard option for UC faculty papers published in most of Cambridge journals. This is the UC's first open access pilot with a major publisher.

Consultation with University Librarian

LASC benefited from consultation and input from Librarian Li on an array of topics including updates on Library space and funding, announcements from the California Digital Library, open access issues, and UC negotiations with Elsevier and later Cambridge University Press.

Review Items

1) *Second Systemwide Review of the Proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations*

LASC was the lead Senate committee reviewer on the second systemwide review of the proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations. In its memo to the Senate Chair, LASC asserted that 1) students should be allowed to request an embargo independent of their advisors, as the students are the authors of their theses and dissertations and are therefore the copyright holder and 2) LASC reiterated its previous argument from the first round of review of this policy that the embargo period should be longer, up to six years, in order to allow for flexibility across the disciplines. LASC recognized that students in the sciences may wish to have their theses or dissertations available immediately. But students in the book fields (humanities and social sciences) may require additional time as dissertations can take several years to be published as a book.

2) *Proposed, New APM 011: Academic Freedom for Non-Faculty Academic Appointees*

This proposed, new section of the APM addressed the academic privileges, rights, obligations, and responsibilities of non-faculty academic appointees. In its memo to the Senate Chair, LASC endorsed the proposed, new APM section.

Systemwide Updates

LASC Chair Maria DePrano represented the committee on the systemwide University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications (UCOLASC) and kept LASC informed of updates throughout the year. The main items of discussion at UCOLASC meetings included updates from the California Digital Library, the Elsevier negotiations, consultation with the editor of UC Press, and open access issues.

Respectfully submitted:

LASC members

Maria DePrano, Chair (SSHA) – UCOLASC representative
Kathleen Hull (SSHA) – CAPRA representative
Steve Wooding (SSHA) – COR representative
Andy LiWang (SNS) – GC representative
Justin Cook (SSHA) – UGC representative

Ex officio, non-voting members

Haipeng Li, University Librarian

Student Representatives

Stevan Colin, Undergraduate Student Representative
Katherine Shurik, Graduate Student Representative

Staff

Simrin Takhar