

**COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS
ANNUAL REPORT
AY 2017-2018**

TO THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

In AY 2017-2018, LASC held a total of three 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 its focus on two main issues this academic year:

- 1) *Library Space Planning for 2020*. 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. And, on occasion, consulted with guest Maggie Saunders, Director of Space Planning and Analysis.

LASC devoted a significant amount of time this year discussing different space plans and furniture options for the Library with the goal of creating more quiet study, study space, and collaborative study space for students. Director Saunders informed LASC that she and representatives from the Woods Bagot firm (hired by the campus) met with every Senate committee following the discussion with LASC and will have had a total of approximately 50 interviews. Their goal was to collect as much input as possible for the space planning and allocation process in relation to space needs, growth, deficiencies in existing space, missing spaces. A main concern of LASC was the space allocation of the west wing of the Library. The west wing was originally intended to be utilized by the Library but, due to space restrictions, was reassigned for administration use. A discussion took place regarding whether the Library will be able to reestablish ownership of the west wing once the thirteen new 2020 buildings are complete. Once the 2020 project is complete, the Enrollment Management Services building will be the only new administration structure and will absorb administration from the first floor of the Library. With reorganization, the third floor of the west wing may open along with parts of the second and first floors.

LASC was concerned that the Library would not be able to keep up with the existing growth. Issues facing the Library include: collaborative workrooms not being used for intended design (i.e. KL 396 and KL 496 are being used as teaching spaces which results in a technological and space design issues), over utilization by a single group, and inadequate seating. The Library was designed to have 700 seating spaces, but reality reflects 500-600 spaces. On a daily basis, the Library seating exceeds capacity resulting in students sitting on the floors. Undergraduate student feedback showed the highest priority for students was more quiet study, study space, and collaborative study space.

In addition, LASC discussed the possibility of adding more furniture in the Library relative to the standard seat count per square foot, but funding is an issue.

In an effort to utilize conference rooms and potential study spaces, Director Saunders examined a new enterprise-wide room reservation system that would enable rules-based scheduling of space so students may book and access rooms after hours. The goal was to bring the system online by Summer 2018.

- 2) *Proposed Changes to LASC Bylaws*. LASC spent a significant amount of time discussing the composition of committee membership and ways to open the committee to faculty who are interested in library-related matters. LASC proposed revisions to the bylaws related to LASC membership to create up to three at-large positions, up to one representative per School. Creating three at-large positions for LASC is intended to increase participation from additional faculty who are significantly engaged in library matters as a part of their research and teaching. Currently, the members of LASC are on the committee by a virtue of their roles on other Senate committees. LASC has greatly benefited from their various perspectives on library issues, however, members also believe that additional faculty should be permitted to serve on LASC based solely on their interests in library and related matters. This is will carryover over to AY 2018-19.

Consultation with University Librarian

LASC benefited from consultation and input from the University Librarian on an array of topics. The Librarian discussed matters related to the Master Plans for the Library as drafted by Director Saunders; Workforce Planning; the Library's plans to convert contract positions in to permanent positions; Library purchasing Geospatial data as shared resources; the Library Collections budget model; Faculty Author Series; KL 355 pilot study; and the UC ANR grant project.

Systemwide Item

LASC joined other Senate committees in reviewing the *Proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations*. The proposed policy was developed in response to a request from the Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Advisory Committee (SLASIAC), which advises on academic copyright-related matters, systemwide library policies, and strategies to facilitate the transmissions of scholarly communications.

Upon review, members were generally supportive of the proposed policy but expressed concerned that the two-year embargo is an insufficient amount of time. Members feel that students in certain fields may require additional time as dissertations can take up to several years to rewrite and publish as a book. LASC therefore recommended the option of extending the embargo for up to six years.

Systemwide Updates

LASC Chair Ryavec represented the committee on the systemwide University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications (UCOLASC) and kept LASC informed of updates throughout the year. UCOLASC consulted with the California Digital Library Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director Gunter Waibel on topics such as Open Access on Theses and Dissertations,; the Senate's endorsement of the vision contained in the Library White Paper on Space that took place Spring 2017; and bepress eScholarship .

Respectfully submitted:

LASC members

Karl Ryavec, Chair (SSHA) – UCOLASC representative

Maria DePrano (SSHA) – GC representative

Michael Scheibner (SNS) – COR representative

Mike Colvin (SNS) – CAPRA representative

Justin Cook (SSHA) – UGC representative

Ex officio, non-voting members

Haipeng Li, University Librarian

Ann Kovalchick, Chief Information Office and AVC of Information Technology

Student Representatives

Levi Martin, Undergraduate Student Representative

Christina Acosta, Graduate Student Representative

Staff

Simrin Takhar

Brittany Conn