

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (LASC)**Minutes**

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Documents found at UCM Box: [LASC AY 20-21](#)

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications met at 11:30 am on September 16, 2020 via Zoom, Chair Maria DePrano presiding.

Attendees: Chair Maria DePrano, University Librarian Haipeng Li, Vice Chair Virginia Adán-Lifante, David Strubbe, and Changqing Li.

I. Chair's Report – *Maria DePrano***A. Introduction of members**

Chair DePrano welcomed new and returning members.

B. [Guide to Senate Committee Membership](#)

Chair DePrano shared a PowerPoint, which was made available to members on the LASC Box site.

Chair DePrano reviewed the following topics:

- Committee Membership:
 - Some committees consist of only Senate faculty, while others include both Senate faculty and student members
 - Ex-officio members contribute their perspective to issues, thereby facilitating informed deliberation and decision-making. Librarian Li is the ex-officio member for LASC.
- Member Rights:
 - All committee members are granted permission to speak.
 - Senate members participate and vote.
 - Ex-Officio members and student members are allowed to speak but cannot vote.
- Consultants and Guests:
 - Consultants are usually campus staff or administrators that provide subject matter expertise to the committee.
 - Guests are usually university staff or administrators that are invited to join a committee for a specific purpose.
- Committee Meetings and Executive Sessions:
 - Committee meetings are intended to facilitate the business of the committee.

- Executive sessions are held at times when the committee must discuss and act upon sensitive or confidential information in closed session. These sessions are not recorded or included in the minutes. There are set principles to guide the practice of Executive sessions.

C. May 20 UCOLASC Meeting Update

The Chair of LASC at every UC campus serves on the systemwide version of LASC which is called the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC). Meetings are usually held three times a year.

Chair DePrano summarized the main topics discussed at the AY 19-20 UCOLASC meetings:

- An emergency meeting was called on May 15, where members were introduced to a transformative agreement between the UC system and Springer Nature. UCOLASC endorsed this transformative agreement, and it has been signed and implemented.
- Another emergency meeting was called on July 15, where UCOLASC endorsed reopening negotiations with Elsevier.
- May 20 UCOLASC meeting:
 - California Digital Library (CDL) Update – The Executive Director of CDL provided an update on the UCOP budget. All acquisitions will be given to UC San Diego. UC San Diego will be completing the purchasing for CDL.
 - The White House OSTP (Office of Science and Technology Policy) Consultation – The CDL wrote a memo to the White House OSTP requesting input on what universities and publishers think about a zero embargo for federally funded data and research. UCOLASC wrote a memo supporting the zero embargo. UC Merced LASC and the Committee on Research (CoR) together distributed a memo supporting a zero embargo. The CDL Executive Director attended a meeting at the White House to discuss the potential zero embargo.
 - Licensing updates – Additional money was given to CDL to purchase e-books under JSTOR (Journal Storage) and Project Muse.
 - Systemwide Integrated Library System (SILS) Update – SILS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP), selected a vendor, and a project manager has been hired. SILS will unify all libraries together under one catalog system. It will have an 18-month implementation period and there are hopes for

completion by 2021; COVID has delayed the process.

- HathiTrust ETA (Emergency Temporary Access) – Although UC Merced has curbside service to acquire physical books during the pandemic, ETA provides access to digital books and books that have been digitally scanned that the UC system owns, without violating copyright issues.
- Project Transform Working Group – Springer Nature is the second largest publisher in North America. The UC pays most publishers to read their articles; however, their agreement with Springer Nature allows access to articles as well as publishing, using a multipayer model. This is a 3-year pilot project with no price increase. \$1000 of the cost is paid by the Library and the remainder of the cost can be paid three different ways:
 - 1) The author can pay the remaining amount using their research funding.
 - 2) If the author does not have the funding, the Library will pay the remaining amount.
 - 3) The author can request that the article not be published OA.

Chair DePrano shared a list of other publishers that the UC currently has a transformative agreement with:

- Traditional Publishers:
 - Association of Computer Machinery (ACM)
 - Cambridge University Press
- OA Journals:
 - Public Library of Science (PLOS)
 - Journal of Medical Internet and Research (JMIR)

LASC members asked for clarification on the following topics:

- UC Merced's access to books online:

Librarian Li explained that each campus has a different online catalog. UC Merced utilizes the SILS system. This not only helps to streamline workflow but also provides easier access for users.
- The transformative agreement with Springer Nature:

Chair DePrano and Librarian Li explained that the contract has been signed and CDL is negotiating logistics with Springer Nature on the UC's behalf. The UC had two goals: cost reduction and open access, accomplishing both with Springer Nature. Many publishers have been pushing back about reducing costs, but Springer Nature gave UC Merced a deal for the first couple of years at a reasonable cost. Springer Nature also surpassed expectations for the open access point. Nature journals are not a part of this agreement, but it is important to note that Springer

Nature made a commitment to include them in the future.

The next UCOLASC meeting will take place in November and Chair DePrano will share updates at the December 1st LASC Meeting.

D. Spring 2020 Elsevier poll results

The UC's Council of University Librarians (CoUL) launched a poll in early Spring to assess the impact of the loss of immediate access to Elsevier journals. The poll was open for five weeks and was completed by over 7,300 UC affiliates.

Chair DePrano shared the UC systemwide poll results:

- Impact on residents:
 - 33% reported significant impact
 - 44% reported some impact
 - 21% reported no impact
- Impact on scientists involved in health sciences:
 - 52% reported significant impact
 - 40% reported some impact
 - 6% reported no impact
- How respondents acquired the Elsevier articles when they were not available:
 - 37% - asking a colleague at another institution
 - 27% - finding them online
 - 14% - using interlibrary loan
 - 11% - asking the author
 - 27% - did not pursue any method to obtain the article
- In regard to support for the UC's position, 39% of general respondents supported UC's goals of cost containment and establishing open access to UC research (18% for health sciences respondents), 25% understand what the UC is trying to accomplish although it is causing an inconvenience (26% for health sciences respondents), and 14% indicated frustration with the process (24% for health sciences respondents).
- The impact of respondents' relationship with Elsevier:
 - 68% reported no impact
 - 15% reported that it affects their decision to publish in Elsevier journals
 - 13% reported it affects their reviewing of Elsevier articles.

Despite the inconvenience, there is still strong support for the UC's position in reengaging in negotiations with Elsevier.

E. Renewed Elsevier negotiations

Elsevier negotiations began again in July. UCOLASC and CoUL are in support of the reopening of negotiations, and are hoping Elsevier provides a deal by December 2020.

The main conflict with Elsevier is that they are a very expensive subscription. They are the largest scholarly publishing company in the world, owning most of the scientific journals. Their price increases every year, and they are reluctant to work with the UC on reducing their costs. They charge for both subscriptions and open access for publications (through APCs) and have been uninterested in open access, but have recently shown interest.

F. AY 20-21 LASC goals and priorities:

Chair DePrano shared the following list of goals and priorities for AY 20-21 with LASC members:

- Continue to work with UGC, GC, and CAPRA to ensure and/or encourage authors of proposals for new programs, schools, ORUs to consult with library leadership early in the process of writing their proposals.
- Monitor the recently reopened UC negotiations with Elsevier, give input via UCOLASC as needed, and update the UC Merced community as appropriate.
- Support the University Library through the program review process.
- Communicate about open access and transformative agreements with the university community. Chair DePrano would like LASC members to brainstorm how to effectively communicate this, especially with SNS and SoE faculty.
- Support the Library in establishing the Sierra Nevada / Central Valley Archival Hub as appropriate.
- Address Library support for research, teaching, and learning within the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Action: Members are to send additional goals/priorities they may have via email to Chair DePrano and copy LASC Analyst Melanie Snyder.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Consultation with University Librarian – Haipeng Li

Librarian Li further discussed the results from the Elsevier poll, comparing UC Merced's results with the overall UC results:

Several responses were received UC systemwide, with 216 responses from UC Merced. The responses were separated by the different schools in UC Merced, as well as by status (i.e. faculty, staff, students, postdocs, etc.). UC Merced's results were similar to the overall UC responses.

Librarian Li shared the overall UC poll results and compared them with the UC Merced poll results:

- 33% reported significant impact (36% for UC Merced)
- 44% reported some impact (46% for UC Merced)
- 21% reported no impact (18% for UC Merced)

Quantitative data was presented to us but was not widely shared because sensitive data was included. Librarian Li shared confidential information with the committee.

A member asked why undergraduate student participation was higher than graduate student participation.

- This could be because of the type of assignment, or also because several undergraduate students help faculty with their research.

A. Support for research, teaching and learning during COVID-19

The pandemic has been causing several issues for the campus, even though UC Merced does not have many reported COVID-19 cases. A month ago, Librarian Li attended a meeting with campus leadership to discuss the reopening of the library. During the meeting, members were informed they were not allowed to reopen due to the increased numbers of COVID-19 cases in Merced.

Shortly after, the government's new tier system was established, which must be considered before the reopening of the Library. Merced is still in the top tier, and it will take some time to come down to the lower tier. Until then, the Library will remain closed.

Many concerns arose and a meeting with Humanities faculty was held. Faculty came up with several ideas in addition to the HathiTrust Emergency Service:

- Added Jove video content to assist the Science and Engineering faculty
- Offered curbside pickup service
- Instituted a mail delivery service

Interlibrary Loan (ILL):

Unfortunately, ILL operations have not resumed because several campuses still do not allow access to physical buildings. Therefore, UC Merced has limited access to materials. Some campuses are relaxed, while others are very strict. For example, UC Davis currently allows a

study space for students. On the other hand, UC Merced is currently housing approximately 500 students, and the dorm rooms are occupied by one student per room to manage social distancing. In order to assist students with their studies, many online services are offered at UC Merced. Such services include Library Instruction, Data Curation help, Data Carpentry, workshops, etc. Digitization services are available to faculty as well who need assistance with scanning, digitizing, and uploading their materials to CatCourses.

B. Library Planning Updates

a. Strategic Planning:

- The process began last year and there were hopes for completion by Summer 2020. Unfortunately, the process has been delayed due to COVID-19 but are still hoping for completion by the end of this semester. Strategic Planning addresses the entire spectrum of Library operations.

b. Academic Planning:

- Focuses on the academic aspect of Library operations, and is currently being incorporated into Strategic Planning efforts.

c. Periodic Review:

- Delayed due to COVID-19.

d. Budget Planning - 5% Reduction:

- Three scenarios were given by campus directive:
 - Keep the budget as is with no increase and no reduction.
 - 5% reduction in budget.
 - No increase in budget but growth in faculty and students.

This caused many concerns. UC Merced was asked to cope with the 5% reduction. How can faculty plan with a 5% reduction of their entire budget?

Librarian Li shared a Workforce and Budget Planning document that was provided to the planning team. Approximately two years ago, an organizational efficiency and sustainability effort was implemented among campus leadership. The Library was granted ten positions, with four of them slated for hiring this year. The 5% reduction can be used for some of these positions even though not all are filled yet, or some of the positions that count toward the 5% reduction can be given up. There were plans to fill these positions in order to cope with campus growth; however, the campus is currently going through a hiring freeze.

The Library can use these positions to count toward the 5% reduction or they will have to find money to cut elsewhere in their budget. After discussions at the Library Executive Committee meetings, it was decided that it may be better to give up the four allocated positions. The salaries of the four positions would amount to the 5% reduction from their entire budget. A 5% reduction in the Library's budget equates close to \$300,000. The four positions at \$70,000 salary each equates to approximately \$300,000 and money elsewhere can be found to make up the difference. This is probably the least disruptive scenario in

terms of Library operations because the Library would not know where else to locate \$300,000. This plan has been submitted to the EVC/Provost's office, and once that office receives responses from all schools, further discussions regarding the plan will take place.

UC Merced's programs are continuing to grow. New faculty will be hired and new students will be recruited, and at the same time the campus must cut their budget. Every UC campus is experiencing the 5% reduction. Because UC Merced is small, the Library will experience a large impact from the 5% reduction.

It will be difficult for the Library to complete several significant projects over the next couple years. One such project is the archival hub project. The Library has support from the Chancellor, EVC/Provost, LASC, and many faculty members to move forward with this project. A donor is interested in donating his library to UC Merced, which includes materials associated with Yosemite National Park. Also, the Sequoia National Park has been ordered to evacuate, so all materials will be moved from that archive to UC Merced. Furthermore, the Sierra National Forest agreed to give the UC Merced Library their archives because they do not have the space to house them. Unfortunately, these projects are put on hold due to the current circumstances.

A LASC member asked why projects are being put on hold if emergency evacuations are taking place. Librarian Li explained that some projects are on hold in terms of planning. The Library does not have the funding to process archival materials or to permanently house them at this time. However, in response to the current emergencies, the Library must find temporary space until the archives can be permanently housed.

C. Support for New Programs

a. Gallo School - Masters of Data Science

- Director Paul Maglio met with Library administration regarding the Masters of Data Science program. The school will most likely not be established for another two years; however, the Masters of Data Science program is moving forward. This new program will need Library support in several ways:
 - GIS support with Spark operations
 - Data Carpentry workshops
 - Collections support
 - Data Literacy for instruction
- There are plans for a data bootcamp. The Library team will work with students at a week-long bootcamp once they are recruited to ensure they are provided with a sufficient level of information and education.

b. Medical Education -

- BRIDGES Charter Taskforce - UCSF, UCSF Fresno and UC Merced to develop UC Merced medical education pipeline program in the next 1-2 years
 - Medical Education Director Thelma Hurd is leading this effort. The Library is involved in providing support for this group.

- Masters of Public Health –
 - Library administration met with Professor Irene Yen, who is leading this effort. Discussions occurred regarding possibilities for the Library to provide support.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 pm.

Attest: Maria DePrano, LASC Chair