

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communications (LASC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 25, 2024

1:30pm – 3:00pm

I. Chair's Report – Chair Ojeda [1:30 – 2:00pm]

A. Welcome and General Updates

Chair Ojeda provided an update on the White Paper. It is now finalized and published on the [LASC committee webpage](#), Senate News section of the [Academic Senate website](#), [eScholarship](#), and posted in the [LASC Box folder](#).

So far, LASC has presented the White Paper to Interim Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost Zatz, and Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development Wilson. Chair Ojeda shared that the incoming Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost Dumont and Vice Chancellor for Planning & Budget and Chief Financial Officer Schnier will be joining the February 22, 2024 LASC meeting. Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Strategy Spitzmueller, Associate University Librarian for Research & Engagement Davidson Squibb, and Associate University Librarian for Library Operations Scott will also be in attendance.

B. [Open Access \(OA\) Ambassador Program](#)

Last academic year, LASC successfully presented this program at several faculty department meetings. LASC plans to continue these presentations this semester. LASC will review information on Open Access (OA) publishing, including new slides from the California Digital Library (CDL), and have a discussion on the format of the presentations.

Chair Ojeda shared a PowerPoint on *UC Libraries' Funding Support for Open Access Publishing*. The slides included the benefits of Open Access (OA): higher citation rates and greater visibility of research, greater influence with policymakers or industry practitioners outside of academia, and more equitable access for researchers in low-income countries and at underfunded institutions.

The University of California does not have Open Access (OA) agreements with all publishers, and the benefits only apply to the publishers listed in the slides. The University of California aims to add more Open Access (OA) publisher agreements over time. The University of California is working towards making UC research freely available, in line with its mission as a public university and leveraging the University's

resources by redirecting library subscription funds to help pay for Open Access (OA) publishing. This approach helps control the University's overall journal-related costs, which had been climbing in two ways: library subscription costs were rising, and at the same time, the number of authors choosing to pay for Open Access (OA) on their own has been increasing.

II. Consultation with University Librarian – *Haipeng Li* [2:00 – 2:30pm]

A. [NEH Project Options Proposal](#)

An executive summary and a PowerPoint on the Funding Request Options to Complete National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Project was provided to LASC members prior to the meeting. University Librarian Li provided background on the NEH Project. The Library was awarded \$750,000 from the NEH. The Chancellor has matched the received funds 1:1, which afforded the Library a total amount of \$1.5 million. During project discussions with the design team, the Library realized that more funds will be required to proceed with the renovations. The entire project was estimated to require funding of \$3.1 million. The Library has already used \$100,000 of Library funds to start this project. In addition to the Library funds of \$100,000, along with the total amount of \$1.5 million from the NEH and the funds from the Chancellor, the Library currently has \$1.6 million allocated, however, it is still short about \$1.5 million. University Librarian Li stated that he is thinking of presenting this issue to the Chancellor to see if the Chancellor is willing to contribute additional funds to proceed with this project. Due to significant cost increases for labor and materials, the current \$1.6 million allocation will only complete a small portion of the NEH deliverables and does not include furnishing KL 483 with shelving and map cases for the intended purpose of housing collections.

University Librarian Li and Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Zatz have met several times to discuss what aspects of the Library budget can be reworked to generate savings. University Librarian Li mentioned that there are requirements by the NEH in terms of goals and deliverables that the Library must fulfill. University Librarian Li has prepared a PowerPoint which focuses on three options for renovation. Each option provides details of how much additional funding is required and what the renovation will entail. It is crucial to note that the Library has been offered high-value collections from donors who expect collections to be properly housed, processed and accessed. Without adequate space, the Library loses not only these anticipated collections but also the trust and goodwill of donors and supporters. Funding the completion of the NEH project goals would remove the risk to current collections, allow the Library to accept additional collections, support core activities, and save on the substantial expense of future repair and renovation.

Action: LASC Analyst met with Executive Director Paul to discuss next steps. Some suggestions were offered by the Executive Director and relayed to the LASC leadership.

Action: Chair Ojeda will provide an update of recent consultations with relevant campus stakeholders. Members will discuss and agree on next steps.

B. [Budget Call Metrics Presentation](#)

University Librarian Li provided the presentation which was presented at the Deans' Council meeting on January 23, 2024. This year, the budget call process includes 2 phases. The first phase is to present the measures that the Library would use to support the campus goals. The Library Strategic Plan identifies the following goals for the Library:

1. Contribute to Student Learning
2. Deepen Researcher Success
3. Preserve & Promote Regional Knowledge
4. Advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
5. Strengthen Library Communications & Processes

The second phase includes the budget call request. The Library will use the measures listed above to support the requests that will be submitted. University Librarian Li will share these requests once the budget call is finalized.

III. **Consent Calendar [2:30 – 2:30pm]**

- A. Approval of today's agenda
- B. Approval of [December 6, 2023 meeting minutes](#)

Action: Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. **Campus Review Item [2:30 – 3:00pm]**

- A. [Proposal for Establishment of a Department of Medical Education](#)

The [proposal](#) begins on page 11 and is preceded by support letters from:

- Natural Science Executive Committee
- SNS Dean Dumont
- Department of Applied Mathematics
- Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Department of Life and Environmental Sciences
- Department of Molecular and Cell Biology
- Department of Physics

A memo from the School of Engineering Dean Goel and School of Engineering Executive Committee Chair Petersen is also available [here](#).

LASC thanked the organizers for crafting an insightful proposal that establishes the vision for how UC Merced will participate in the SJV PRIME+ medical education pathway. LASC appreciated that the Department of Medical Education proposal included a section on Library Resources. All members of the proposed department (students and faculty) will have access to the existing library resources at UC Merced. In addition, UCSF will offer additional librarian support to help ensure “sufficient access to library resources”. While there is no accompanying letter of support from University Librarian Li, LASC understands that the proposers have had discussions with University Librarian Li regarding this effort.

Two factors were discussed by LASC regarding how a new Department of Medical Education may impact the UC Merced Library. First, LASC discussed if the establishment of a new department, with different topical areas and courses than existing UC Merced majors, require specialized resources (e.g., journals, data, etc.). The proposal does not speak to this, but such a need may be reasonably anticipated. It is not clear from the proposal how “additional librarian time” from UCSF solves this challenge. However, University Librarian Li conveyed to LASC that his understanding is that students engaged in the F1 curriculum at UC Merced are jointly considered UCM/UCSF students, so they have access to UCSF Library materials and resources. Additionally, the UCSF Librarian support can help with medical literacy/information literacy. Assuming these details are accurate, LASC acknowledges and appreciates the partnership with the UCSF Library. LASC suggested adding details regarding specialized content needs and student access to UCSF library resources to the proposal. A second factor discussed by the committee was the UC Merced Library resource needs as the program grows. Even though students have access to UCSF resources, they will still be physically located on the UC Merced campus and will utilize a wide variety of UC Merced library services. The Library is a wonderful campus resource and use of the Library should be encouraged. However, unlike other academic units on campus, there are no mechanisms available for the Library budget to grow commensurate with campus growth. LASC notes that this oversight means that there is substantial risk that the Library budget becomes increasingly disconnected with the research and educational needs of our growing campus community. This factor applies to growth due to students participating in the BS portion as well as the F1 portion of the SJV PRIME+ program.

Overall, LASC strongly supported this proposal, and hopes that the campus, School of Natural Sciences, and future Department of Medical Education faculty and instructors will support the Library when the Library requests additional resources to successfully fulfill its mandate to support the teaching, learning, and research needs of the growing UC Merced community.

Action: Member Blois lead the review for the Establishment of a Department of Medical Education proposal. LASC sent a memo to the Senate Chair on February 7, 2024.

B. [Data Science and Policy Analysis Minor](#)

Upon approval, the program will be effective Fall 2025. The proposal begins on page 6.

Undergraduate Council's Policy for the Review and Approval of Undergraduate Degree Programs is available [here](#). The policy for the review and approval of New Minors is available [here](#).

Action: Vice-Chair Quinn will lead the review for the Data Science and Policy Analysis Minor proposal by February 14, 2024.

C. [Psychology B.S. Program and Proposed Amendments to the Psychology B.A. Program](#)

The Psychology B.S. program proposal and the proposed amendments to the existing Psychology B.A. program are available on pp. 3-63. They are preceded by letters from the SSHA Dean and the SSHA Curriculum Committee, and followed by support letters from the following departments:

- Applied Mathematics – p. 64
- Biology – p. 65
- Chemistry and Biochemistry – pp. 66-68
- Cognitive & Information Sciences – pp. 69
- Computer Science & Engineering – pp. 70-78
- Economics – pp.79
- Global Arts, Media, and Writing Studies – pp. 80
- Management of Complex Systems pp. 81-83
- Molecular and Cell Biology – p. 84
- Physics – p. 85
- Political Sciences – p. 86-88
- Public Health – p. 89

Action: Member DePrano will lead the review for the Psychology B.S. program proposal and the proposed amendments to the existing Psychology B.A. program by February 7, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Attest: Christopher Ojeda, LASC Chair