

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (LASC)

Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 11, 2024

10:30am – 11:40am

I. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of today's agenda
- B. [September 27 meeting minutes](#)

Action: The October 11 meeting agenda was approved as presented. The September 27 meeting minutes have been revised and approved by members via email as a consent calendar item.

II. Campus Review Item – All

- A. [Interim Policy on Expressive Activities and Assembly: Protests, Demonstrations, Non-University Speakers and Signage on Campus and in University Facilities](#)

The interim policy describes the University's policy on expressive activities and assembly, including protests, demonstrations, outside speakers and signage, including time, place and manner procedures implemented pursuant to this interim policy.

LASC emphasized the Library's role as a space for learning and free expression for all community members and highlighted potential conflicts when one person's expression may hinder another's learning. LASC expressed concern that the interim policy on free expression, particularly regarding mask-wearing, could unintentionally restrict free expression and diminish the Library's educational environment. LASC advocates for clearer guidelines that affirm the right to wear masks during constitutionally protected activities and urges the University to differentiate between health-related mask use and any intentions to conceal identity for nefarious purposes. LASC strongly encourages the University to continue to subject this policy to scrutiny and to proceed with caution before its approval.

Action: LASC sent a memo to the Senate Chair on October 29, 2024.

III. Consultation with Associate University Librarian for Library Operations – Eric Scott

- 1. Library service plan for the year
- 2. Campus budget decisions

Associate University Librarian for Library Operations Scott reported that the Library received \$100,000 of the ACE funding for collections, which is the 3rd year of a 3-year commitment. There is uncertainty of what will happen after this, and the Library may very well be facing cuts from its budget.

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Associate University Librarian for Library Operations Scott also reported that there will be 1 million dollars that will be dedicated to supporting equity and reclasses. The Library is unsure how much they will receive out of this.

The Library asked for \$175,000 to close the gap in their student salary budget, however they were not successful.

The library has had to reduce its hours by 20%, cutting down from 101 to 81 hours a week to address budget deficits, which also led to a reduction in student staffing. This cut is expected to save around \$90,000, but a remaining deficit of nearly \$100,000 still needs to be addressed. Despite previous over-funding of staff salaries, there are concerns that this might not continue, making future budgeting uncertain. Recently, the Chancellor requested the restoration of all hours, prompting a compromise to add Saturday hours back in November and return to full hours in January. However, this does not resolve ongoing financial challenges, especially with potential minimum wage increases looming that could exacerbate the deficit.

IV. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.

Attest: Jessica Blois, LASC Chair