

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communications (LASC)

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 23, 2023

1:30pm – 3:00pm

I. Chair's Report – *Chair Ojeda* [1:30 – 1:55pm]

A. White Paper Updates

Chair Ojeda presented three opportunities to present the LASC White Paper:

1. Chair Ojeda is scheduled to present the LASC update at the December 14th DivCo meeting.
2. Interim EVC/P Zatz and VCR Wilson have been invited to attend the December 6th LASC meeting.
3. Chancellor Muñoz and Interim Vice Chancellor and CFO Kurt Schnier will be invited to attend a LASC meeting in Spring 2024.

LASC members also discussed the possibility of presenting the LASC White Paper to Senate committees. The LASC White Paper is currently in the design stage and will be considered finalized upon design completion.

Action: LASC Members will meet December 4, 2023 in preparation for EVC/P Zatz and VCR Wilson's attendance for the December 6, 2023 LASC meeting.

B. [UCOLASC DEI Resource](#)

This resource is intended to help the UC community ask questions regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion in scholarly communication, explore their implications, and begin to take action to create a more equitable scholarly communication environment in alignment with our values as an academic institution.

C. [Shared Governance Retreat](#)

Topics of the Shared Governance Retreat included faculty morale, budgeting, financial reporting, enrollment, faculty hiring, graduate student funding.

Discussions to improve the quality of campus life included the Library. Expanding the Library hours was proposed as one way to improve campus life for students. The Library was not mentioned during the discussions related to budgetary issues and enrollment, which reiterates the need to promote the work of the Library to the faculty and administration. LASC plans to help frame the Library as a public good by presenting to both faculty and administration regarding Open Access (OA) and the LASC White Paper.

II. Consent Calendar [1:55 – 1:55pm]

- A. Approval of today's agenda
- B. Approval of [September 20th meeting minutes](#)

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. [University Policy on Assignment of Faculty-Authored Course Materials](#) [1:55 – 2:10pm]

Per Executive Director Paul's request, UGC agreed to consult with LASC on the draft policy regarding conflict of interest with course material selection when the instructor is the author. LASC supported this policy and made the suggestions below to potentially strengthen and clarify the policy. LASC was grateful for how it emphasized the importance of keeping costs down for students.

LASC found three ways the policy could be strengthened:

1. The policy could be more explicit about the level of detail instructors should include in the proposal they submit to their Department Chairs.
2. The policy could more strongly stress that it is the responsibility of instructors (and not Department Chairs) to demonstrate that they fulfilled all criteria.
3. The policy could clarify how Department Chairs should evaluate proposals that do not meet all criteria. Should these proposals be rejected, or do Department Chairs retain discretion over whether to reject or approve them?

Action: LASC sent a memo to UGC on October 31, 2023.

IV. Campus Review Item [2:10 – 2:25pm]

A. [Biology B.A. Degree Program](#)

LASC noted the program proposal stated that there will be no need for additional collection expenditures (p. 31). This is in accordance with University Librarian Haipeng Li's letter of support.

Further on in his letter, however, University Librarian Li states, "As our student body continues to grow, we anticipate potential demands for an increasing number of reference consultations and requests from faculty for librarians to provide instruction for students" (Appendix B). Thus, there is a gap between the lack of immediate resource needs addressed in the proposal and the indication in University Librarian Li's support letter that in the medium- and long-term the library will require additional resources to support the growing student-body population.

LASC hopes that SNS faculty and instructors involved in delivering the major will support the Library in the future when the Library requests additional resources to successfully fulfill its mandate to support teaching, learning, and research of the growing UC Merced student body. LASC extended the committee's gratitude to the proposal authors for consulting with the Library regarding potential Library resource needs before submitting the proposal to the Senate for review.

Action: LASC sent a memo to Executive Director Paul on November 15, 2023.

V. **Consultation with University Librarian – Haipeng Li [2:25 – 2:50pm]**

A. [UC OA Publishing with Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers \(IEEE\)](#)

The UC will be ending Open Access (OA) publishing support through its agreement with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), effective January 1, 2024. Authors that publish in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) journals may still be able to make their articles Open Access (OA) however, starting January 1, 2024, authors will be responsible for the entire Open Access (OA) fee. Reading access to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) publications will continue, as only the UC's funding support for publishing is coming to an end. UC's Open Access (OA) agreements with other publishers will not be affected.

B. [UCM Title List for Cancellation](#)

University Librarian Li reported that the Library has a deficit in its collection budget. As a result, there will be cancellations to some information resources to balance the collections budget.

Effective January 1, 2024, the following electronic resources will be cancelled:

- **Department of Chemistry**
 - Cambridge Structural Database (chemical structures and analysis software)

- **Department of Civil Engineering**
 - American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE) 2024 E-book collection
 - ASCE 2024 Proceedings collection

- **Department of Mechanical Engineering**
 - American Society of Mechanical Engineering (ASME) 2024 E-book collection
 - ASME 2024 Conference Papers collection

- **School of Engineering**
 - Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) 2024 E-book collection

- **Department of Public Health**
 - Mary Ann Liebert medical journal package

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

Attest: Christopher Ojeda, LASC Chair