Committee on Library & Scholarly Communications (LASC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
1:30pm – 3:00pm

I.   Consultation with University Librarian – *Haipeng Li* **[1:30 – 1:45pm]**
      A. Budget Call Planning Update
            University Librarian Li reported that the Library is preparing for the budget call
            submission. The Library has been asked to identify the measures that align with the
            strategic goals.

            The space, KL 171, which the Library has reserved for the use of digitization of materials,
            will now be renovated.

II.   Consent Calendar [1:45 – 1:45pm]
      A. Approval of today's agenda
      B. Approval of October 23, 2023 meeting minutes

      Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III.   Campus Review Items [1:45 – 1:55pm]
      A. Aerospace B.S. Degree Program
            Upon approval, the program will be effective Fall 2025.

            The LASC draft memo is available, here.

            LASC strongly supported the Aerospace B.S. Degree Program proposal and 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.

            LASC noted that the program proposal stated that there will be no need for additional
            collection expenditures (p. 21). This was in accordance with University Librarian Haipeng
            Li's letter of support. Further on in his letter, however, University Librarian Li states, "As
            the undergraduate student population grows, we expect that demands for these resources
            and services will eventually increase" (Appendix B). Thus, there was 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.

University Librarian Li also noted in his letter, "We have noticed that at most other UC campuses, where Aerospace programs are available, the Libraries subscribe to Aerospace Research Central (ARC) to provide access to papers from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). The Library would require further funding for collections in order to subscribe to ARC or additional AIAA specialized journals" (Appendix B). Although the proposal did not indicate a need for these specialized journals at this time, it seemed possible that the demand for them may arise.

LASC strongly supported this proposal and hope that the School of Engineering and the Aerospace Engineering faculty and instructors will support the Library in the future 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: LASC sent a memo to the Senate Chair on December 6, 2023.

IV.   **UCOLASC Meeting Update – *Member DePrano* [1:55 – 2:15]**

A. [UCOLASC Meeting Update](#) from October 27, 2023

Member DePrano announced that the Office of Scholarly Communication (OSC) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) publishing [resource](#) has officially been launched. This publishing resource website supports the UC community in gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges of achieving and maintaining diversity, equity, and inclusion in scholarly publishing. It includes concrete actions that authors, peer reviewers, journal editors, and librarians can take to support DEI in scholarly communication.

UCOLASC members were asked to support Open Access (OA) education through each of their UC campus Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (COLASC). UCOLASC members were asked to open the doors to faculty, school, and college meetings for Open Access (OA) presentations or receive training to make presentations to campus departments. Last academic year, LASC presented to 8 departments and one graduate group at UC Merced. This Open Access (OA) outreach is being implemented again, with the goal to present to all departments within the next two years.

UCOLASC also received an update from the Chair of Council of University Librarians (CoUL). One of the Council of University Librarians (CoUL) priorities is to think about how to support Open Access (OA) publishing in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts. Council of University Librarians (CoUL) may explore what it would require to support Open Access (OA) monograph publishing, as the publishing costs to publish one's monograph can be very expensive.

V.   **Discussion of the LASC White Paper with Interim EVC/P Zatz and VCR Wilson [2:15 – 3:00pm]**
Member DePrano shared the presentation slides for the LASC White Paper summary. The Library provides numerous activities and services that support and promote the UC Merced Strategic Planning Goals:

1. Goal 1: Engage our World and Region through Discovery and the Advancement of Knowledge
2. Goal 2: Develop Future Scholars and Leaders
3. Goal 3: Cultivate a Culture of Dignity and Respect for All

Member DePrano shared a table which showed how the Library services and activities mapped onto the strategic planning goals of the university. Many Library activities supported multiple strategic planning goals. In order to simplify the LASC White Paper, LASC selected one Library activity that supported one strategic planning goal. With financial investment, the Library could accelerate its contributions to the strategic planning outcomes. LASC emphasized that the UC Merced Library is a necessary partner in the university's advancement towards R1 certification.

Part 1 of the LASC White Paper addressed the Library activities that support and promote the UC Merced Strategic Planning Goals. Part 1 articulates the following:

1. Goal 1: Engage our world and region through discovery and the advancement of knowledge.
   - Library collections
   - Library data management for faculty and the Data Management Planning (DMP) Tool
   - Library Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Center/Geospatial Consulting

2. Goal 2: Develop future scholars and leaders.
   - Library instruction for information literacy and reference consultations
   - Library Coding and Data Science education for graduate students
   - Library Zero Cost Course Materials (ZCCM)

3. Goal 3: Cultivate a culture of dignity and respect for all.
   - Library student employment, Library student internships, and Library student fellowships
   - Library spaces
   - Library's Open Access (OA) transformative agreements
   - Library archives, special collections, and exhibitions

Member Blois elaborated on the Library's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Center/Geospatial Consulting. The highest amount of users of GIS services at UC Merced have been faculty from across all 3 Schools. The 2 new majors of Data Science and Analytics and Data Science and Computing will also intersect with geospatial data in a variety of ways; therefore, a greater demand for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) expertise will be expected from faculty and students as these new majors launch. Member Blois showed a table of potential long-term opportunities that could be achieved with a commitment of additional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) resources.

Part 2 of the LASC White Paper provides a brief overview of the Library budget. This section itemizes the Library's budget based on the fiscal year 2021-2022 data. Member DePrano noted that the Library does not overspend its budget nor does it practice deficit spending. The Library's overall budget, which is approximately $6.3 million dollars, sustains a wide range of expert talent, resources, spaces, and activities that directly and indirectly support campus research and instruction. The budget is roughly divided into three main categories: salaries and benefits, information resources, and operations.

Part 3 of the LASC White Paper elaborates the recommendations to support the Library. One recommendation is to acquire funding to support student employment, internships, and fellowships. Another recommendation is to expand the Library and to allocate spaces in the Library for operations and public services. The next recommendation is to allocate funding to Transformative Agreements in support of Open Access (OA) publishing. The last recommendation is to establish a Sierra Nevada-Central Valley Archive, which funding is required to acquire, process and preserve unique collections.

VCR Wilson brought up a point on how we can monetize the work that the Library does, beyond the traditional mechanisms. For example, regarding Geographic Information Systems (GIS), some companies may be directly interested in partnering with UC Merced. Member Blois mentioned that monetizing data may be an issue when the Federal government has Open Access (OA) requirements. LASC thanked Interim EVC/P Zatz and VCR Wilson for joining today's meeting and offered to answer any additional questions Interim EVC/P Zatz and VCR Wilson may have in the future. LASC will continue this discussion in the Spring semester.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.
Attest: Christopher Ojeda, LASC Chair