

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

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications met at 1:30pm on February 1, 2023, via Zoom, Chair Maria DePrano presiding.

Attendees: Chair Maria DePrano, Christopher Ojeda, Jessica Blois, Crystal Kolden, Associate University Librarian for Research and Engagement Squibb, and Library Consultant Olivia Olivares.

I. Chair's Report – Chair DePrano [1:30 – 1:50pm]**A. UCOLASC update (11/30/22)**

CDL has hired a new Director of Shared Collections, and now has a permanent funding model for 2023-2034. Chair DePrano reported that CDL has launched a second pre-print server, known as EcoEvoRxiv, which hosts preprints on ecology, evolution and conservation projects. Chair DePrano provided an update on the Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship (HELIOS). This is a project of the National Academy of Sciences, which works to advance open scholarship.

Office of Scholarly Communications has created a draft website for promoting DEI in scholarly communications. Chair DePrano mentioned that the Office of Scholarly Communications will likely ask the committee for LASC's input.

Council of University Librarians (CoUL) are looking at local policies for PI exceptions for librarians. Different campuses seem to handle PI exceptions for librarians differently. They are working towards a systemwide plan for a UC service to loan digital books, called Project Lend.

UCOP Academic Council Chair Susan Cochran consulted with UCOLASC, regarding the strike and its potential effects on campus budgets and numbers of incoming graduate students. UCOLASC was concerned about what it means for the Library's budgets on campuses across the system.

B. LASC Library White Paper update

Chair DePrano summarized what EVC/Provost Camfield had suggested for the LASC White Paper, when LASC met with him last year. The needs are the following:

- 1) Advertise the Library's activities
- 2) Tie the Library's activities to the UC Merced strategic plan goals
- 3) Advocate for the creation of a budget model to ensure that the Library has a consistent budget

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- 4) Advocate for increased funding to account for the historic under-funding of the UC Merced Library

What Chair DePrano, Cristiane Spitzmeller, Sara Davidson Squibb, Eric Scott, etc. have done so far since September:

- 1) Determined R2 peers and aspirational R1 peer institutions, using benchmarking data from their libraries to compare the UC Merced Library's budget (space, collections, staff, etc.) to the budgets of these peer institutions.
- 2) Taking the Libraries activities into consideration, in terms of the UC Merced Strategic Plan, a set of "Top 10 Library Activities" were selected to map 1 or 2 activities to each Strategic Planning Goal.
- 3) "Logic Models" are being written to demonstrate how an increased Library budget for collections, tagging, space etc. could facilitate and promote the UC Merced Strategic Planning goals.

Chair DePrano showed LASC members what the draft of the LASC White Paper would entail.

II. OA Ambassador Implementation – *Chair DePrano* [1:50 – 2:10pm]

Chair DePrano provided a recap of the OA Ambassador Retreat and thanked members for their attendance. If members have any edits to the presentation slide deck, Chair DePrano encouraged members to email their suggested edits.

LASC members mentioned that they will be planning to attend a department meeting for the following departments: Political Science (Christopher Ojeda), Biology (Jessica Blois), Mathematics (Jessica Blois), Chemistry (Jessica Blois), Economics (Christopher Ojeda), GAMWS (Maria DePrano), Literature, Languages, & Cultures (Maria DePrano).

III. Consent Calendar [2:10 – 2:10pm]

- A. Approval of today's agenda
- B. Approval of October 17, 2022 meeting minutes
- C. Approval of November 14, 2022 meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Campus Review Item – *Chair DePrano* [2:10 – 2:15pm]

A. Electrical Engineering Department Proposal

The proposed Department of Electrical Engineering will start with ladder rank faculty members, Professor Sarah Kurtz and Professor Mukesh Singhal, both research faculty. The

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formation of the department at this time will facilitate the growth of the Electrical Engineering enrollment. The first cohort of undergraduate students will be admitted in the Electrical Engineering program in Fall 2023.

The following documents are included in the proposal:

- EE Department Proposal (clean copy)
- EE Department Proposal (tracked changes copy. Revisions were made in response to feedback from Deans and SOE Executive Committee).
- Memo from SOE EC Chair Rusu
- Memo from SOE Dean Goel
- Memo from Professors Kurtz and Singhal

LASC supported the establishment of an Electrical Engineering department as an appropriate home for the new EE undergraduate degree program. LASC requested that as the department and new undergraduate program grow, that the department leadership consult occasionally with the Library regarding program needs such as journals and databases.

Action: LASC's sent a memo to the Senate Chair on February 3, 2023.

V. **GC Memo to CAPRA, CoR, and LASC - Revised Proposal for a Master in Data Science and Analytics (MDSA) – Chair DePrano [2:15 – 2:20pm]**

GC has invited CAPRA, CoR, and LASC to review the revised proposal and proposal team's response letter for a Master in Data Science and Analytics (MDSA) to ensure that committees' prior concerns have been adequately addressed.

The following documents are included in the attached PDF Packet:

- Memo from GC to CAPRA, CoR, and LASC summarizing committees' prior concerns and the proposal team's responses.
- Original Proposal for a Master in Data Science and Analytics with GC's November 2020 response.
- GC's April 2021 memo to the proposers, which includes comments from CAPRA, CoR, LASC, and EDI (formerly DE).
- The proposal team's response letter submitted to GC on September 1, 2022.
- Revised proposal for a Master in Data Science and Analytics submitted by the proposal team to GC on September 1, 2022.

In the previous academic-year memos, LASC membership expressed concern that the new MDSA program was definitively tied to the creation of the Gallo School. LASC continues to

be concerned that the institution of the Gallo School may divert scarce resources away from historically under-funded campus entities, such as the UC Merced Library. In the new revised proposal, the authors have separated the establishment of the MDSA from the Gallo school, which has resolved LASC's main concern about the new MDSA program.

LASC appreciated the program authors' recognition that Library support is critical, and the contribution of annual funding to support library operations and data bootcamps. LASC suggested that the program revisit their support model as program size and needs grow to ensure support is consistent with Library needs.

LASC respectfully indicated to the proposal authors that SpARC is now referred to as The GIS Center. It may be appropriate to correct the name of the Center in the revised proposal.

Action: LASC sent a memo to GC on February 10, 2023.

VI. Systemwide Review Item – *Chair DePrano* [2:20 – 2:30pm]

New Presidential Policy on Anti-Discrimination

The proposed policy covers discrimination, harassment, and retaliation by and against members of the University community on University property or in connection with University-sponsored activities.

The proposed policy includes the following key provisions:

- The proposed policy affirms the University of California's commitment to creating and maintaining a healthy working and learning environment in an inclusive environment free of discrimination, harassment and retaliation.
- The proposed policy defines harassment and discrimination as well as lists the protected categories protected by federal and state law.
- The proposed policy prohibits retaliation against an individual who reports Discrimination and/or Harassment, assists someone with a report of Discrimination and/or Harassment, or participates in an investigation or other process under the policy.
- The proposed policy addresses free speech and academic freedom. The proposed policy is intended to protect members of the University community from Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Retaliation, not to regulate protected speech. The proposed policy recognizes that freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and academic freedom are essential to the mission of the University. However, freedom of speech and academic freedom are not limitless and do not protect speech or expressive conduct that violates federal or state anti-discrimination laws.
- The proposed policy outlines the possible consequences of noncompliance, which may include remediation, educational efforts, informal counseling, adverse performance evaluations, corrective action/discipline, and termination/dismissal.

LASC stated that it would be helpful if the new proposed policy clarified how it differs from the Presidential Policies on Abusive Conduct in the Workplace (effective 1/1/2022) and the Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence Sexual Harassment Policy (effective 1/1/2022), both of which appear related to the new proposed policy.

Second and most important, LASC encouraged the UC Office of the President to ensure that the local campus offices responsible for researching and resolving these difficult complaints of discrimination, abusive conduct, and sexual violence or sexual harassment are adequately resourced. Often, these types of complaints are highly emotional, difficult, and complex. If there is inadequate staffing or financial support for the local campus office, then these complaints can drag on without resolution for years to the detriment of all involved.

Action: LASC will send a memo to the Senate Chair by March 3, 2023.

VII. Consultation with Associate University Librarian for Research and Engagement – Sara Davidson Squibb [2:30 – 2:55pm]

A. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant project update

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant intends to expand archives spaces for both storage and public reading spaces. Associate University Librarian for Research and Engagement Squibb stated that majority of the renovation will occur on the fourth floor of the Library. The renovation is expected to take place around December of this year.

B. Library's collections budget (deficit) update

Currently, the Library is looking at a deficit of \$317,000 of the budget, similar to the deficit of last year. For this year, the Library is in the process of formally asking the EVC/Provost to cover the remaining cost of \$287,000. The Library has recently received a confirmation of \$90,000 in new faculty funding.

C. Exclusion of the Library in the campus Indirect Cost Recovery (IDCR) policy

Currently, if there is a Library PI on the grant, there will be no money returned to those individuals.

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

Attest: Maria DePrano, LASC Chair