

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communications (LASC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 22, 2024

1:30pm – 3:00pm

I. Chair's Report – *Chair Ojeda* [1:30 – 1:35pm]

A. Discussion of the Review Items

The responsibility for leading the review of proposals have been divided among the committee members. The LASC Analyst will reach out to each appointed reviewer and disseminate their feedback in a prompt manner to ensure the committee's comments are submitted to the Senate Chair by the deadline.

B. Update on the LASC White Paper

Chair Ojeda informed members that Incoming EVC/P Dumont will not be able to join the LASC meeting today due to scheduling conflicts. LASC may consider arranging a meeting with EVC/P Dumont in the coming months. Member DePrano will take the lead in presenting.

Action: The LASC Analyst will arrange a meeting with Incoming EVC/P Dumont once availabilities are determined.

II. Consultation with University Librarian – *Haipeng Li* [1:35 – 1:55pm]

A. NEH Project

University Librarian Li shared that Interim EVC/P Zatz expressed skepticism regarding the usefulness of the LASC memo to the Chancellor, fearing it could potentially backfire and place undue pressure on the Chancellor. University Librarian Li suggested putting the LASC memo on hold for the time being.

B. [Update on Budget Call Requests](#)

University Librarian Li presented a PowerPoint regarding the UC Merced Library Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025. The presentation included Library budget plans and requests to advance student success and research. University Librarian Li will keep LASC members updated on any potential Tier 1 cuts to the Library's collections.

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

A. UCOLASC Meeting Update from February 16, 2024

Member DePrano conveyed that the Director of the UC Press presented an overview of the UC Press/UC Humanities Research Institute Humanities Publishing Symposium.

Member DePrano also provided an update on the joint UCOLASC and Council of University Librarians (CoUL) meeting. There was a discussion on AI and library contracts with publishers. Member DePrano reported that commercial publishers are issuing addenda stipulating that libraries refrain from utilizing any licensed material for AI research training.

IV. Consent Calendar [2:15 – 2:15pm]

- A. Approval of today's agenda
- B. Approval of [January 25, 2024 meeting minutes](#)

Action: Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

V. Discussion of the LASC White Paper with Vice Chancellor & Chief Financial Officer Schnier [2:15 – 3:00pm]

Member DePrano presented the UC Merced Library White Paper presentation to Vice Chancellor for Planning & Budget and Chief Financial Officer Schnier.

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 provided a table illustrating how the services and activities of the Library align with the strategic planning goals of the university. Member Blois presented on the Library's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Center/Geospatial Consulting. Vice Chancellor & Chief Financial Officer Schnier inquired about whether the GIS courses are offered for academic credit. University Librarian Li clarified that although there are many workshops that are managed by the Director of UCM Center for GIS, these courses are not offered for credit. Member DePrano concluded the presentation by discussing the recommendations in the White Paper for improving and strengthening the resources and support available to the Library as it works to advance the strategic goals of the university.

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

Attest: Christopher Ojeda, LASC Chair