

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

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

1:00pm – 2:30pm

**I. Consent Calendar**

- A. Approval of today's agenda
- B. [December 13, 2024 meeting minutes](#)

**Action:** The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

**II. Chair's Report – *Chair Blois***

- A. Update on consultation with DivCo (December 16, 2024)

Chair Blois reported on LASC activities to DivCo, and revisited LASC's goals which includes addressing the Library budgetary issues, promoting Open Access (OA) scholarship, promoting the Library White Paper and promoting the inclusion of the Library in new degree programs.

Chair Blois will provide another update on LASC activities at one of DivCo's meetings during the Spring semester.

- B. Update on the December 16, 2024 Meeting of the Division – Vice Chair Quinn

Vice Chair Quinn provided a brief update on the Fall Meeting of the Division. The Library was mentioned in the December 16, 2024 Senate's Two Cents, which is a biweekly mailing sent to all UCM Senate faculty that highlights Senate activities. A statement was included about the launch of the [Journal Open Access Lookup Tool \(JOLT\)](#), a new service for UC authors to check if a journal qualifies under one of UC's open access publishing agreements.

Chancellor Muñoz provided an update on capital projects, enrollment and the 5% campus budget reduction.

**III. Consultation with University Librarian – *Haipeng Li***

- A. Library hours and budget update

Library hours have been fully restored to 2023-2024 levels for Spring 2025, with funding from the Provost's Office. This return to 101 open hours per week includes the restoration of Saturday hours from 10am to 6pm, and extended Sunday through Thursday hours until midnight.

To address the projected budget deficit in collections for this fiscal year, Head of Collection Services Dooley prepared a list of recommended subscription cancellations,

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which was shared with LASC at the November 22, 2024 meeting. While this will help reduce part of the deficit, a remaining portion is still unresolved. The anticipated 5% budget cut for the next fiscal year will significantly impact the collections budget moving forward. Discussions are ongoing regarding how to communicate these cuts to the campus, and University Librarian Li noted that LASC will be consulted.

#### IV. **Campus Review Item – All**

##### A. [Proposal for a Dual Degree Program Leading to a Bachelor of Science \(B.S.\) Degree from UCM and Doctor of Medicine Degree from UCSF](#)

The proposal packet includes:

- The dual degree proposal itself, which follows Appendix W (pp.83-84) of the September 2023 revision of the [Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs Handbook](#).
- A letter from the Executive Committee of each of UC Merced's three schools. I thank them for their reviews, which have strengthened the proposal.
- The BS/MD Dual Degree Supplement. This document responds to questions and need for additional context raised by the Executive Committees that could not easily be accommodated in the proposal itself because the desired information does not align with the questions in Appendix W.
- Letters from the Interim Dean of the School of Natural Sciences, the University Librarian, and Chief Information Officer.
- The UCM-UCSF MOU.

For your reference, previous LASC comments on the Department of Medical Education/San Joaquin Valley (SJV) Prime program can be found [here](#).

**Action:** The LASC Analyst notified the Senate Chair that LASC declined to opine.

#### V. **Discussion on Open Access (OA) Presentations**

Open Access (OA) allows published research to no longer be behind a paywall but instead become freely available and faculty will be able to retain the copyright on their work. The transformative agreements provide a few specific benefits to faculty such as discounted rates for Open Access publishing and funding for Open Access publishing for faculty who lack funds to publish their work

Promoting Open Access (OA) has been a key goal for LASC in recent years. LASC has worked towards this goal by visiting different departmental faculty meetings around campus and delivering presentations (ideally with UC Merced subject-librarians) focused on the UC's transformative agreements.

##### 1. **Overview of resources**

- The spreadsheet of the departmental faculty meetings where LASC has presented in the previous years can be found [here](#).

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- An email template for reaching out to the Department Chair can be found [here](#).
- The list of Library liaisons is available [here](#).

## 2. Presentation approach

Chair Blois presented the latest version of the transformative agreements [slides](#) to the committee as a model.

LASC committee members and Library liaisons have spoken at departmental faculty meetings to highlight the value and practicality of Open Access publishing. The goal was to address common misconceptions around Open Access publishing and to demonstrate the publishing process. By identifying common questions from faculty, LASC can better understand the barriers to Open Access publishing and refine our presentations for the future.

## 3. Plan for reaching out to the remaining departments

The list of the 2024-2025 Department Chairs is available [here](#).

Chair Blois shared background information on the Open Access presentations and emphasized the importance of communicating this information to our campus. Members agreed that those who have not yet presented at faculty meetings will shadow someone who has already presented to gain a better understanding of how the presentations should be conducted.

Several presentations have been made to the SSHA and SNS Departments so far. LASC plans to present to some SOE Departments this semester, so members agreed to contact the SOE Department Chairs.

**Action:** Members will contact Department Chairs, focusing on the School of Engineering, to inquire about the possibility of presenting on Open Access publishing at one of the departmental faculty meetings.

## VI. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

Attest: Jessica Blois, LASC Chair