Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (LASC)
Monday, March 6, 2023
3:30pm – 5:00pm
Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications met at 3:30pm on March 6, 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***
   A. UCOLASC update (2/15/23)
      The California Digital Library (CDL) provided an update on "Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship (HELIOS)," which is a project of the National Academy of Sciences. This project aims to advance open scholarship. The initiatives of this project include:
         1. Institutional and department language regarding tenure, promotion, and open science.
         2. Shared open scholarship infrastructure.
         3. Alignment of different sections of federal government, societies, funders, and universities.

      UCOLASC was given an update on Preprint Servers. The problems preprint servers address are the following:
      1) publication lags behind discoveries;
      2) discoveries buried in obscure publications;
      3) restrictions on what publishable (e. g. negative results).
      ArXiv.org – central location opened in 1991 – lead the way. Now there are lots of preprint servers, such as SSRN (social sciences), RcPEc (economics & finance), bioRxiv (biology).

      Recently - Earth ArXiv (earth and planetary sciences) and EcoEvoRxiv (ecology, evolution, and conservation) –are both being hosted by the UC CDL
      (https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/tag/eartharxiv/

      There was also an update from the Data Sharing Librarian at UCSF regarding NIH's new data sharing requirements. Librarians can assist with the preparation of data for sharing, how to make the data public, and how to find publicly available data. The goal is to increase transparency and public access to publicly funded research.

Chair DePrano reported that there was a consultation with the Chair of Academic Council, Susan Cochran. Chair Cochran addressed the negative evaluation of UC Online. There are some uncertainties of how to move forward with UC Online. Chair Cochran provided an update on the strike and its potential effects on campus budgets and numbers of incoming graduate students. UCOLASC expressed concerns of the potential effects of the Library budget due to the strike.

UCOLASC also received an update on Project LEND (LEND = Library Expansion of Networked Delivery). Project LEND was inspired by the HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access Services (ETAS), which surfaced a lot of different ways scholars used digital books. Project LEND is looking into limited, controlled digital lending similar to ETAS. This would mitigate collection inequities between campuses. Campuses with smaller collections could get more access to digital books. Project LEND is funded with grant from Mellon Foundation and is looking to potentially create a national infrastructure for controlled digital book lending. Four teams have been created who will look at the following: user requirements; technology platform; legal framework; and collection scope.

B. LASC White Paper progress
Chair DePrano provided an update on the progress of the LASC White Paper. Logic models are being written for every strategic planning goal. The logic model will show how an increased Library budget for collections, staffing, and space could facilitate and promote the UC Merced Strategic Planning Goals. The LASC White Paper will also include narratives explaining the Library activities.

The LASC White Paper will:
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 so that the Library has a consistent budget.
4. Advocate for increased funding to account for and make up for the historic under-funding of the Library at UC Merced.

II. **Consent Calendar**
    A. Approval of today's agenda
    B. Approval of February 1, 2023 meeting minutes

    Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. **Systemwide Review Item –** *Chair DePrano*
    A. Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-43 Purchases of Goods and Services; Supply Chain Management

This agenda may contain confidential and privileged material for the sole use of LASC Members.

The policy was reviewed by the Senate in 2021 (please see DivCo's memo dated March 23, 2021), and was revised as follows to address comments previously raised:

- Respond to feedback from the previous systemwide review.
- Address inconsistencies and formatting errors.
- Clarify what policy does and does not allow.
- Separate policy from procedure.

LASC raised many of the same concerns that it had with the 2021 version of this Systemwide policy. If this policy is applied to the purchase of library information resources, it will be burdensome and will likely result in significant delays in the acquisition of information resources. Publishers of books, journals, databases, etc. are by definition sole source suppliers. The Copyright Act ensures this. Vendors that aggregate the provision of these materials to libraries are, due to their scale and technological capacity, effectively sole source suppliers, as are vendors that supply collections-related services, such as journal subscription management services. In almost all cases, these vendors are national corporations; publishers are both national and multi-national corporations. The necessity to seek waivers from Small Business First requirements will add an additional layer of bureaucracy to library procurement without any benefit to the University.

One alternative would be to seek exemptions by having Library agreements certified as sole source agreements. This may also add a significant administrative burden. This policy as written will be more or less burdensome to the Library depending on how it is implemented. LASC does foresee, however, some degree of negative impact due to the need to seek waivers or exemptions to the policy provisions.

Action: LASC's sent a memo to the Senate Chair on March 17, 2023.

IV.   **Campus Wide Review Item – *Chair DePrano***

A. [SSHA B.A. Degree and Minor in Environmental Humanities](#)
    The proposal begins on page 7 of the document linked in the hyperlink above. Undergraduate Council's Policy for the Review and Approval of Undergraduate Degree Programs is available [here](#). The policy for the review and approval of new minors is available [here](#).

    LASC wrote a memo in enthusiastic support for the establishment of a new major and minor in Environmental Humanities. The committee thanked the authors of this proposal for consulting with the Library regarding potential resource needs of the new programs.

    Action: LASC's sent a memo to the Senate Chair on April 4, 2023.

B. [SSHA B.S. Degree in Public Health](#)
The proposal begins on page 9 of the document linked in the hyperlink above.
Undergraduate Council's Policy for the Review and Approval of Undergraduate Degree
Programs is available [here](#).

LASC appreciated that the Library was consulted. The B.A. in Public Health already draws
on a wealth of library resources, including instructional services, Geographic Information
Services (GIS), and other data services. The creation of a B.S. in Public Health builds on
the existing B.A. program, and so no new library resources are anticipated in the short-term.

However, as University Librarian Li notes in his letter, the growth of the program and the
development of the Medical Education Program may increase demand on library resources
in the future. This possibility should be revisited down the road to determine if additional
funds are needed to support the library.

In the future, LASC recommend proposals such as this one capture the full breadth of the
library's current and future support. The text of the proposal 1) identifies the existing
library resources the B.S. program will use, and 2) reports that no new library resources will
be required in the short-term. However, the proposal does not state how the program may
place greater demand on the Library in the future as the program grows. This possibility is
clearly laid out in the letter from University Librarian Li and should be acknowledged in
the text of the proposal.

Action: LASC's sent a memo to the Senate Chair on April 4, 2023.

C. [SSHA Cognitive & Information Sciences Honors Program](#)
Undergraduate Council's Policy for the review of new or revised degree programs is
available [here](#).

LASC wrote a memo in support for the proposed SSHA Cognitive and Information
Sciences (CIS) Honors Program. At its current stage of development, LASC does not
expect the Honors Program to use more than typical Library resources. However, LASC
noted that the Library was not consulted to determine whether additional acquisitions,
resources, or services might be needed to support the new Program. Due to the research-
intensive nature of Honors programs, they typically rely heavily on library resources and
support, and so we encourage such consultation as the Honors Program grows. Indeed, the
Library is eager to partner with departments and faculty to support programs such as the
CIS Honors Program in delivering courses and content and supporting students.

Action: LASC's sent a memo to the Senate Chair on April 4, 2023.

V. Consultation with University Librarian – *Haipeng Li*

A. Library budget update
   University Librarian Li reported that the Library had about $300,000 in deficit in collections. The Provost has offered to help the Library in coming up with a budget model. The Library has been asked to submit a budget augmentation request, which has already been submitted. University Librarian Li shared concerns that the Library continues to face challenges in this area.

B. Budget call process
   As minimum wage has increased, there are challenges in maintaining student workers in the Library. The Library has never received funding to support student workers. The Library has been using their operational funding to support student workers. University Librarian Li emphasized that the Library is one of the largest employers of student workers on campus, hiring about fifty employees per year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.
Attest: Maria DePrano, LASC Chair