Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (LASC)
Agenda
Wednesday, April 20, 2022
3:30 – 4:40 pm

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications met at 3:30 pm on April 20, 2022 via Zoom, Chair Maria DePrano presiding.

Attendees: Chair Maria DePrano, Virginia Adán-Lifante, Chih-Wen Ni, Kenichi Yoshida, Jessica Blois, University Librarian Haipeng Li, and Library Consultant Elizabeth Salmon.

I. **Chair's Report – *Chair DePrano* [3:30 – 4:00]**

A. Debrief of April 7 Divisional Council meeting

Chair DePrano shared the LASC bylaws with members. The LASC bylaws state that the committee should make recommendations to the Division on matters concerning the role of the University Library. LASC agreed that having 10-15 minutes of DivCo's time would be necessary to raise these concerns.

B. Recognition of Library Staff and Librarians who worked onsite during the pandemic.

Chair DePrano reported that a list of the 20 people who were working on campus during the pandemic has been provided by the Associate University Librarian Eric Scott. A letter to the Academic Senate Chair recognizing these 20 people will be written and sent. Chair DePrano also reported that a statement of appreciation has been drafted on behalf of LASC for the Monday memo. LASC members shared their thoughts and feedback on the statement.

C. Office of Scholarly Communications DEI webpage - update.

The Office of Scholarly Communications is working on a DEI webpage. Chair DePrano shared that this webpage will allow people to be attentive to how DEI can be furthered in scholarly communications when faculty review manuscripts and work on journal editorial boards.

D. California Digital Library (CDL) Budget update

For fiscal year 2022-2023, the continued goal is to reinstate the funds at UCOP/ California Digital Library (CDL) under campus assessment. Other options include punting by utilizing one-time funds and enacting a cost-share outside of the general campus assessment. At their February meeting, UCOLASC approved a memo to the Academic Council regarding the concerns of the UCOP budget. Academic Council Chair Horwitz endorsed the UCOLASC statement to permanently reinstated funding for the CDL Collections budget. Systemwide Provost Brown is currently working on reincorporating the CDL Collections budget into the

UCOP budget.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of today's agenda
B. Approval of draft February 23 meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Campus Review Item – *Chair DePrano* [4:00 – 4:10]

A. Campus Wide Honors Program Proposal
On Friday, April 8, 2022, the Honors Program Working Group (HPWG) voted to endorse the proposal (10 in favor, 0 abstention, 0 opposed, 2 ballots not returned). On Monday, April 11, 2022, voting members of UGC voted to endorse the proposal (9 in favor, 3 abstentions, 0 opposed, 0 ballots not returned). Members of UGC who also serve on the HPWG abstained.

The following documents were available to LASC prior to the meeting:

- Committee on Rules and Elections' approval of proposed revisions to Section 4 of the Senate Regulations – Undergraduate Honors.
- MS Word version of the approved Regulation
- Comments/questions from School Executive Committees, the SSHA Curriculum Committee, as well as the faculty from the Deans' and Chairs' meetings of all three Schools. The HWPG reviewed the feedback and provided responses, available in the same document.

In a memo, LASC will caution the proposal authors that the UC Merced University Library has been historically underfunded for the last decade. LASC will provide the proposal authors with the May 3, 2021 LASC memo regarding the University's lack of sufficient support for collections budget, staffing, and space.

Honors courses rightly require serious student research. LASC is concerned that introducing a research intensive undergraduate program will increase requests for the following research services:

1) Purchase requests for books, datasets, databases, and other collections resources.
2) Use of interlibrary loan services, which can have associated costs determined by the lending institution.
3) Use of research, instruction, GIS, and data curation consultation services.

As these research resources and services cost money and require staff time, LASC is concerned that the Library may not have adequate financial and staff resources to assist students at the level of excellence that Librarians, Library leadership, and Library staff

strive to provide.

Action: LASC will review the Campus Wide Honors Program Proposal via email and will transmit a memo to the UGC Chair by Monday, May 9, 2022.

IV. Consultation with University Librarian – *Haipeng Li* [4:10 – 4:30]

A. NEH Grant

In partnership with the Center for the Humanities, the Library has received a $750,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This amount is to be matched by the Chancellor, and all together the amount will be 1.5 million dollars. University Librarian Li mentioned that this will support the vision of creating the Sierra Nevada Central Valley archive. NEH has sent out a press release with a list of this year's grant recipients which showed that UC Merced was the largest grant recipient in the state of California.

B. Budget Planning Update

The Library has submitted a budget request along with the academic plan phase three. CAPRA has reviewed all school and division budget requests and made recommendations to the Provost. The Provost will combine all the requests and prioritize them. This request will be submitted in April to the Chancellor.

The three areas that are included in the Library's request has been the following:

1. Collections budget: requesting a 5% inflation increase – collections budget is staying at the level it was 10 years ago. EVC/Provost Camfield was interested in supporting the systemwide commitment known as Tier 1 deals, 50 million dollars all together shared by all 10 campuses and CDL.
2. Staffing – this year the Library submitted requests for 5 positions.
3. Miscellaneous area – this includes salary increase for students, space for downtown warehouse for archives.

Meeting ended at 4:10pm and LASC entered executive session. No minutes were recorded from executive session.