

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communications (LASC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 25, 2024

1:30pm – 3:00pm

I. Chair's Report – *Chair Ojeda* [1:30 – 2:00pm]

A. Year in Review

Chair Ojeda provided an overview of the committee's activities over the past year. LASC successfully continued the Open Access (OA) Ambassador Program. This year, LASC has made significant efforts to engage with the Economics and Cognitive & Information Sciences departments by presenting at their faculty meetings. Looking ahead, LASC plans to extend these presentations to the Public Health and Psychological Sciences departments in the upcoming Fall semester.

LASC finalized and disseminated the White Paper, which was designed by a graphic designer to enhance its professional appearance. The White Paper has been made publicly available and promoted on eScholarship, the UC Merced Library website, the LASC committee webpage, and through the Senate News. Additionally, LASC presented the White Paper to key administrators. The committee also collaborated with the Library on various issues, including the ongoing budget call, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) project, and the impact of cuts to the Library collections.

Chair Ojeda thanked LASC Members for their contributions.

B. Looking Ahead

LASC discussed ideas for communicating with future LASC committee members. Library Consultant Olivares mentioned preliminary discussions about the Library partnering with research centers and other entities on campus to fund databases. Library Consultant Olivares noted that databases are expensive, so this may not be feasible, but emphasized the value of LASC's support. Chair Ojeda welcomed the Library to reach out to LASC for assistance in pursuing their projects. University Librarian Li suggested resuming the discussion about the possibility of establishing a Library budget model with EVC/P Dumont. Vice-Chair Quinn expressed the need to address space issues in the Library and raised concerns about the lack of a core physical book collection, which makes it difficult to assign research papers to students. Chair Ojeda agreed that a sustainable budget model for the Library would be very beneficial. For the next academic year, LASC plans to research and discuss potential budget models.

- C. Open Access (OA) Publishing Discussion
Prior to the meeting, the working paper by Cognitive & Information Sciences professor, Paul Smaldino, was shared with LASC members as a pre-read material.

II. Consultation with University Librarian – *Haipeng Li* [2:00 – 2:30pm]

- A. Update on Budget Call
University Librarian Li stated that the budget call is currently under review by EVC/P Dumont and CFO Schnier, and they are preparing recommendations for the Chancellor. The Library has been informed that they are permitted to submit three requests: student wage increases, a Library Technology Specialist, and a Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist. Among these three requests, the Provost Office prioritized the request for student wage increases.
- B. Updated on the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Project
University Librarian Li stated that the Library is actively working with consultants to move forward with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Project.

University Librarian Li met with EVC/P Dumont a week prior to the April 25th LASC meeting to provide insight into the Library's overall vision and mission. During this meeting, University Librarian Li also informed EVC/P Dumont of the general issues facing the Library and discussed the Library's budget.

III. Consent Calendar [2:30 – 2:30pm]

- A. Approval of today's agenda
- B. Approval of [February 22, 2024 meeting minutes](#)

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Campus Review Item [2:30 – 2:40pm]

- A. [SSHA Proposal for a Neuroscience Degree Program](#)
The School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts Curriculum Committee voted to approve the Neuroscience B.A., B.S., and Minor proposal. The proposal begins on page 10.

Lead reviewer: Maria DePrano

LASC thanked the proposal authors for consulting with the Library about the new proposed degree programs in Neuroscience. LASC was excited by the programs' interest in using the Library's Zero-Cost (ZCCM) / Low-Cost Course Materials (LCCM) program. LASC noted that the program proposal stated that there will be no need for additional collection expenditures, in accordance with library assessment. While there may be no immediate need for additional library resources, in the medium- and long-term the library will require additional resources to support the growing student-body population, as University Librarian Li notes in his letter. He stated, "Eventually that student growth will require additional resources both in the Library and across campus. But initially, we do not anticipate significant impacts."

LASC has reviewed numerous exciting program proposals this year. Eventually, these exciting programs will grow the student body, which will ultimately increase demand for information resources and services including instruction and reference.

In the future, LASC recommended that proposals such as this one capture the full breadth of the library's current and future support. It would be more accurate for the proposal to note the program may place greater demand on the library in the future as the program grows.

LASC hopes that the Neuroscience and associated faculty and instructors will support the Library in the future when the Library requests additional resources to successfully fulfill its mandate to support teaching, learning, and research of the growing UC Merced student body.

Action: LASC sent a memo to Senate Chair on May 2, 2024.

V. **[Revision of the Proposal for the Department of Medical Education](#) [2:40 – 3:00pm]**

In Fall 2023, SNS Dean Dumont and Dr. Vener submitted a [proposal](#) for a Department of Medical Education to the Senate for their consideration (proposal begins on page 11). LASC reviewed the proposal and submitted a [memo](#) to the Senate Chair on February 7, 2024. DivCo compiled the Senate committee's comments and submitted a [memo](#) to SNS Dean Dumont, Dr. Vener, and SNS EC Chair McTavish.

On April 12, 2024, the Office of Medical Education responded to the Senate's review of the proposal for the Department of Medical Education, providing revisions to the FAQ document (please refer to the [memo](#) from Dr. Vener and Interim SNS Dean Findlater). DivCo would like to welcome committee Chairs to bring any comments/questions for discussion at the April 29th DivCo meeting.

Lead reviewer: Christopher Ojeda

LASC continues to believe that the proposal is an exciting opportunity for UC Merced to enhance medical education and health services in the San Joaquin Valley. In LASC's initial memo, questions were raised regarding what specialized resources (e.g., journals, data, etc.) are required for a Department of Medical Education, and where these resources will come from. The response from the proposers explained in greater detail who will have access to which resources from which campuses. LASC appreciates the thoughtful response.

The proposers noted, "In addition to the UC Merced library, students will also have access to the in-person and electronic UCSF Library; UCSF Fresno medical education library; and consultation with librarians in all three libraries" (p. 21). LASC noted concerns regarding this statement. LASC emphasized that the issue was that the UC Merced Library does not have a medical or health science librarian on staff who can adequately consult, instruct, or support students and faculty or liaise with relevant departments, such as Medical Education or Public Health, as part of the Library liaison program.

LASC encouraged the sharing of library resources across campuses, such as providing students and faculty with electronic access to the UCSF library and the UCSF Fresno medical library, but LASC also recognized that not all resources are amenable to cross-campus sharing. In theory, UCSF and UCSF Fresno can offer remote consultations with librarians who have area expertise, but such consultations will be less frequent and less effective than in-person consultations with a UC Merced librarian. As the past few years have shown, remote learning is often a poor substitute for in-person learning.

LASC believed that the addition of a medical/health science librarian to the UC Merced Library staff is essential to the success of this new Department of Medical Education, especially as it grows in the future. LASC strongly urged the proposers to request resources to support such a position, the Academic Senate to amplify LASC's request, and the administration to support this new position.

LASC reiterated their support for this insightful proposal, and hopes that the campus, School of Natural Sciences, and Department of Medical Education will vigorously support the

Library as it seeks the resources needed to successfully fulfill its mandate to support the teaching, learning, and research needs of the growing UC Merced community.

Action: LASC sent a memo to the Senate Chair on April 26, 2024.

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

Attest: Christopher Ojeda, LASC Chair