UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA   ACADEMIC SENATE ●MERCED DIVISION

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (LASC)
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, April 19, 2021
2:00 – 3:30 pm

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications met at 2:00 pm on April 19 via Zoom, Chair Maria DePrano presiding.

Attendees: Chair Maria DePrano, Vice Chair Virginia Adán-Lifante, David Strubbe, Changqing Li, University Librarian Haipeng Li, and Library Consultant Elizabeth Salmon.

I. **Chair's Report –** *Chair DePrano*

  A. Update from March 29 Division Council Meeting

  Chair DePrano consulted with the Council about the importance of communication with the Library when proposals for new majors, minors, ORUs, graduate are being developed. The Library is asking to be included in the discussion of these proposals, and to request a letter from the University librarian discussing necessary resources from the Library.

  CAPRA is consulting with the EVC/Provost on the future campus budget call process.

  B. Update from February 19 UCOLASC Meeting

  Chair DePrano summarized the main topics discussed at the February 19 UCOLASC meeting. Her PowerPoint presentation was made available to LASC members and was uploaded on Box.

  • Update from the Academic Council Leadership
     There seems to be a concern about the legislative overreach in academic matters. These concerns address what percentage of classes should be online, and how many transfer students the university should be admitting.

     Members from the Academic Council Leadership held a discussion about the campus opening in the fall, along with what is currently happening in various UC campuses. Some campuses have left the final decision to faculty about their teaching preferences, whether to resume classes in person or online. Members also discussed how libraries plan to deal with the pandemic including plans to allow students to study in a safe manner. The Chair and Vice Chair of Academic Council are currently sitting on committees regarding the vaccine rollout and classes resuming in the fall.

  • Consultation with CDL – budget update & licensed content budget

     There has been a discussion about attempts by the system to reduce the budget of the

California Digital Library (CDL). Cutting systemwide services resourced at CDL may create a budget reduction at OP but it will increase and proliferate costs elsewhere within the system. Campus libraries have differing abilities to triage or replace core CDL services, further widening the disparities in Library support to faculty and students across the UC.

Systemwide Provost Brown understood how important CDL budget is for equity and education in research, and general excellence in UC system. Provost Brown pledged to protect the CDL budget. As a result, CDL was asked to submit a 3% budget cut.

State funds are being cut by 3% for contracts, and those contacts are temporarily backfilled with CDL fund balances that are one time use money, in hopes that state funds can be reallocated to contracts once the crisis has passed in the future. As a result, any further layoffs and losses of content/services for UC faculty and students have been avoided. The attempt to get each individual campus to pay for the license content along with any further cuts to CDL are not happening next year.

- Systemwide licensing update

  To continue to meet the information needs of students, faculty, and researchers, there was an attempt to renegotiate the costs, minimize cancellations, preserve licenses, and maintain access to electronic resources. The purpose for this discussion was to get ahead of anticipated budget cuts and austerity measures by UC libraries during the pandemic. As a result, there were costs savings that were moderately effective.

- Cyber-Risk Governance Committee Update

  CRWG members examined the structural, technical, financial, and cultural issues that impact the UC's ability to effectively protect research data. CRWG focused on pragmatic and balanced actions that will elevate UC's security posture for digital research data and lower the risk of data being destroyed or made unavailable.

CRWG developed five principles to guide the UC:
1. Digital research data is essential to UC as researchers, faculty, students and staff require digital research data to achieve their many successes.
2. Data protection is a shared responsibility among all the UC campuses and health systems.
3. Losses can be significant as failure leads to the loss of reputation, missed opportunity for new research, and financial losses due to breaches.
4. UC should set data protection goals to ensure that in three years the digital research data held across all will be at low risk for loss.
5. UC should lead the higher education research community by establishing the protection of digital research data as a paramount concern and making it foundational to the research enterprise.

- Project Transform Elsevier Update
  The University of California has signed an agreement with Elsevier. We obtained reading access to all Elsevier journals with no reading fee with some exceptions. As a result, all the goals that UCOLASC set back in 2018 were met. The goals included 100% open access for UC

authors including Cell & The Lancet as of the second or third year, reduced baseline cost with sustainable year cost controls, and all the provisions responsive to UCOLASC principles.

II. Consent Calendar
A. Approval of today's agenda
B. Approval of draft February 10 meeting minutes

Action: Chair DePrano revised and updated the February 10 draft minutes.

III. Campus Review Items – *Chair DePrano*
A. Proposal for Minor in Materials Science and Engineering

The proposal has been reviewed by the Materials Science and Engineering faculty and originally approved in January 2020. The proposal and relevant policies are available at the above link.

LASC reviewed the Proposal for Minor in Materials Science and Engineering. Members agreed that they would like to see the improvement of communication between the various units and the Library. Chair DePrano suggested LASC submit a memo that supports the proposal but reiterates the concern of LASC that the Library was not consulted. Chair DePrano asks units to consult with the Library for future program proposals.

Action: Chair DePrano will draft a memo and distribute to LASC members for review and approval. LASC's comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00pm on Friday, April 30.

B. Draft Strategic Plan (2021-2031)

Review of a draft of the campus's 10-year strategic plan. The Senate's comments, which are requested by May 19, will inform revisions to establish a final plan for implementation beginning fall 2021.

Addendum provided by the EVC/Provost on April 12, 2021: Targets Overview Draft

LASC members reviewed and discussed the Draft Strategic Plan during the meeting. Chair DePrano was glad to see that the Strategic Plan included the development of Library collections and resources. LASC was pleased that Library functions were included in the list under select strategic initiative. However, LASC recommends that the Strategic Plan also include considerations for Library services in addition to collections. These services include GIS, data management, and data carpentry.

Librarian Li was glad to see that the plan mentioned plans to build the infrastructure for supporting units. Strategic planning at this point is still at a high level. Targets and strategies are all from the Academic planning area.

A LASC member mentioned that they are glad that the Library collections and resources are mentioned. However, they hoped services were included because the Library provides more than just a curated collection of resources. The majority of the Library work is encompassed in services.

The Library supports the research, teaching, and service missions of the university.

Action: Chair DePrano will draft a memo and distribute to LASC members for review and approval. LASC's comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00pm on Monday, May 3.

C. Literature and Languages Department Name Change
    The policy governing the establishment or revision of academic units was provided to committee members in advance of this meeting. The policy does not explicitly address a name change. However, committees are being consulted as per Section V. *Procedures for Review and Approval*.

    A LASC member mentioned the title of the department, Literature Languages and Culture, was the intention from the beginning. The course offerings within the department include more than just literature and languages. The department agreed that including the word "Culture" would be essential and best represent the teachings within the department.

    After a brief discussion, LASC endorsed the name change of the department.

    Action: Chair DePrano will draft an endorsement memo and distribute to LASC members for review and approval. LASC's comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00pm on Friday, May 7.

IV. **Consultation with University Librarian –** *Haipeng Li*
     A. Budget cut impact on Library (10% cut for FY 21-22)
     B. Space Planning Update

Librarian Li summarized the main topics of the Library budget. His PowerPoint presentation was made available to LASC members and was uploaded on Box.

Librarian Li covered topics regarding Library impacts for FY 22 if the Library budget is cut. There will be reduced Library hours, collections and information resources cutbacks and cancellations, and deferred growth of Library programs. He stated that this will negatively affect the relationships with other institutions and donors. These challenges have caused reductions in non-salary positions. Student salaries and staff vacant positions will be impacted. Librarian Li discussed positions that are a priority and stated that certain positions are being postponed.

Librarian Li stated that all units are required to make 7 position recommendations outside of their unit, which will be discussed with the Chancellor. The Chancellor will then make a decision on which positions need to be prioritized in early May.

Librarian Li states that with this level of reduction, the Library still in a deficit. Having a 10% cut across the campus does not seem fair to the Library because they did not have the luxury of having adequate

funding like the other units have had. The Library has been historically underfunded.

Chair DePrano agreed to write a memo supporting the Library budget and stating how important the Library is for students, who learn as they work.

V. **Other Business**

A.   GIS presentation - *Erin Mutch, Director of GIS Service Center*

Director Mutch presented the main activities of GIS support at UC Merced. Her PowerPoint presentation was made available to LASC members and was uploaded on Box.

UC Merced's administrative GIS support and services cover physical and environmental planning, police and public safety, office of sustainability, space planning, and facilities management. Rate-based services include research, projects, tutorials for GIS courses, and workshops. Non-recharges services include research consultations, data carpentries, GIS server and license administration, instructional support, and technical/software support. Support is a big part in non-recharge services.

Some issues that GIS regularly encounters are capacity issues within the current space. These spaces are utilized for workshops, consultations and research, and drop-in support. The majority of UCM GIS Center users are undergraduate and graduate students. GIS supports a lot of students in training and opportunities who have gained employment by leveraging their GIS skills. The majority of GIS workshop attendees were students and faculty. The new software program developed this year has a lot of faculty and graduate students as users.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:36 pm
Attest: Maria DePrano, LASC Chair