

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (LASC)

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 1, 2025
1:00pm – 2:10pm

I. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of today's agenda
- B. [April 1, 2025 meeting minutes](#)

Action: The approval of the Consent Calendar will be handled via email due to lack of quorum.

II. Chair's Report – *Chair Blois***A. Consultation with DivCo (Tuesday, May 6, 2025)**

Chair Blois informed LASC members that she will attend the May 6 DivCo meeting to provide an update on the committee's work this semester. LASC members discussed potential topics to raise with DivCo, including budget related concerns. One member suggested highlighting the termination of the Library's National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant and the significant impact the grant termination has had on the Library. Specifically, the inability to move forward with planned renovations to create an archive space, which represents a major loss for the Library. Members also agreed it would be helpful to address the upcoming cuts to the collections budget and the effect those reductions will have.

B. Upcoming events:

1. Confirmed: All Senate Faculty Town Hall
 - **Topic:** Issues related to recent federal actions
 - **Date & time:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 from 2:30pm – 3:30pm
 - **Location:** ADMIN 306
 - If you have any questions about the town hall, please contact Executive Director Paul at fpaul@ucmerced.edu.
2. Confirmed: [Spring Meeting of the Division](#)
 - **Date & time:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 from 3:30pm – 5:00pm
 - **Location:** ADMIN 306

III. Consultation with University Librarian – *Haipeng Li*

- A. Update on the cancellation of subscriptions
 - [Letter to LASC with cancelation criteria](#)
 - [List of recommended cancellations for 2025-2026](#)

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

University Librarian Li provided context on the current budget situation, noting that the planning for next year's budget cuts is still underway. The Library is focusing on two key areas, which are operations and collections. For the upcoming fiscal year, the Library is preparing for a \$200,000 reduction in the collections budget and is in the process of compiling a list of recommended cuts.

B. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant termination

University Librarian Li reported that the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant was terminated on April 1, 2025. The Library is preparing to submit a request for reimbursement, significant expenses have already been incurred in anticipation of the planned construction. The grant was intended to support a project to renovate part of the Library building, creating space to store archival materials and provide access to them. The Library currently does not have a supervised reading room or adequate storage facilities for its archives. Additional space is essential to support the growth of the Library's collections.

A LASC member inquired about the large donation of the collections from the former Yosemite National Park historian, Jim Snyder, who had agreed to donate his private library of Central and Southern Sierra Nevada materials to UC Merced Library, contingent on the availability of appropriate space to preserve and process the collection. University Librarian Li has kept Jim Snyder informed of the Library's current circumstances.

IV. Update on Open Access (OA) Presentations

Overview of resources

- The spreadsheet of the departmental faculty meetings where LASC has presented so far can be found [here](#).
- An email template for reaching out to the Department Chair can be found [here](#).
- The list of Library liaisons is available [here](#).
- The list of the 2024-2025 Department Chairs is available [here](#).

During the Spring 2025 semester, LASC visited the following departmental faculty meetings to present on Open Access (OA):

1. Civil & Environmental Engineering (SOE) – Presented on March 31, 2025
2. Bioengineering (SOE) – Presented on March 31, 2025
3. Mechanical Engineering (SOE) – Presented on April 28, 2025

University Librarian Li inquired whether any of these meetings may have included any graduate students. Chair Blois clarified that the meetings were attended by faculty only. Chair Blois suggested the idea of prerecording the OA presentation and sharing the recording link with graduate students, in collaboration with the LASC Graduate Student Representative. Another potential approach to sharing OA information could involve developing infographics

and sharing other informative materials for Graduate Chairs to share with their graduate students.

Chair Blois asked whether there were dedicated library liaisons for graduate students, or if they are the same as those assigned to departments. University Librarian Li clarified that the liaisons are the same, as they cover specific disciplines or subject areas. There are no liaisons assigned exclusively to graduate groups.

Action: LASC will include Open Access (OA) presentations as one of its main priorities for the next academic year.

V. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.

Attest: Jessica Blois, LASC Chair