

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (LASC)

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

10:00 – 11:30 am

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications met at 10:00 am on September 15 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**A. Introduction of members, guest, ex officio, and Senate Office staff**

Chair DePrano welcomed new and returning members.

B. Guide to Senate Committee Membership

Chair DePrano shared a PowerPoint, which was made available to members on the LASC Box site.

Chair DePrano reviewed the following topics:

1. Committee Membership:

- Some committees only have Senate members, while others include both Senate members and student members. Student members are non-voting members.
- Ex-officio members contribute the administration's perspective to issues before the committee, thereby facilitating informed deliberation and decision-making. University Librarian Li is the ex-officio member for LASC.

2. Member Rights:

- All committee members are granted permission to speak.
- Senate members participate and vote.
- Ex-Officio members and student members are allowed to express their opinions, but they do not have voting rights.

3. Consultants and Guests:

- Consultants are usually campus staff or administrators that provide subject matter expertise to the committee. Consultants do not have voting rights.
- Guests are usually university staff or administrators that are invited to join a committee to provide information. Guests do not have voting rights.

4. Committee Meetings and Executive Sessions:

- Committee meetings are intended to facilitate the business of the committee.
- Executive sessions are held at times when the committee must discuss and act upon sensitive or confidential information in closed session. Recordings are not made during these sessions, and they are also not included in the meeting minutes. There are set principles to guide the practice of Executive sessions.

C. May 19, 2021 UCOLASC Meeting Update

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

- Consultation with the chair of the Council of University Librarians
Each campus has a University Librarian who oversees all the libraries on a particular campus. Last year, UC Merced University Librarian Li served as the chair of the Council of University Librarians. University Librarian Li attended the May 19 UCOLASC meeting report to members that all UC campus libraries were planning to reopen in the Fall semester. When campuses reopen, ILL with physical books will resume. When physical ILL resumes, HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access service will no longer be active. Curb-side pickup will also be phased out on all ten campuses. The last information that University Librarian Li shared was that the Systemwide Integrated Library System (SILS) would launch by the end of July. Chair DePrano reported to LASC members that it has successfully launched.
- Consultation with the Academic Senate Chair Mary Gauvain
Academic Senate Chair Mary Gauvain thanked UCOLASC for helping support the successful conclusion of negotiations with Elsevier and continued work to expand open access publishing. She informed UCOLASC members that the Feasibility Study Working Group is looking into a replacement instrument for admissions, due to the elimination of the SAT/ACT by the Regents. Vice Chair Horwitz also consulted with UCOLASC that he was co-chairing a joint working group addressing the Academic Council's recommendations for mitigating COVID-19 impacts on the faculty. UCOLASC members communicated to Chair Gauvain and Vice Chair Horwitz of their interest in working to foster diversity and inclusion, within Library and Scholarly communication issues. UCOLASC is interested in working to broaden models of what constitutes knowledge and its dissemination.
- Consultation with Catherine Mitchell from the California Digital Library and Office of Scholarly Communication (OSC) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group member
Catherine Mitchell reported that scholarly communications staff is predominately white and female. Academic publishing boards are male dominated. The role of publishing in academic advancement disadvantages faculty members from underrepresented groups, and these groups experience barriers to publication. UCOLASC agreed to engage with fostering greater diversity in scholarly publishing this academic year.
- California Digital Library Update
The CDL budget cuts that had been envisioned will not have to be applied due to the Governor's budget as of May 19, 2021, which contained full restoration of the University's budget to 2019-2020 levels. However, there is still concern about whether the CDL licensed content costs will be pushed to the campuses. The CDL staffing levels continue at a low level, with a 12% reduction in staff. UCOLASC offered to advocate for additional staff.
- Update on Hathi Trust Emergency Temporary Access Service (ETAS)

Lending through ETAS followed Controlled Digital Lending Principles, which limited usage based upon the number of physical volumes available in UC Libraries. During the pandemic, about 1000 users accessed the system daily.

- Catherine Mitchell of the California Digital Library presented an update on eScholarship
Catherine Mitchell reported on eScholarship, which is the open access repository and scholarly publishing platform for the University of California. The eScholarship program had great opportunities to expand and develop further, however they have reached their staffing resource limits.
- Research Information Management System (RIMS)
Research Information Management System (RIMS) collect and store metadata on research activities and outputs. They are used for faculty reviews, comparative research analysis, and publications management. They are also used to find collaborators and to identify grant opportunities. The working group is comparing third party RIMS providers against the privacy requirements for the University. The working group has performed a survey to identify the various RIMS used by the ten campuses.
- Project Transform – Ivy Anderson of the California Digital Library
Ivy Anderson gave UCOLASC an update regarding Project Transform. Ten transformative open access agreements have been signed in the past two years, including the Elsevier agreement. Preliminary data shows that the costs to the libraries for publishing are within expected ranges.

D. LASC AY 21-22 Goals

1. Liaise with UGC, GC, and CAPRA to ensure and/or encourage authors of proposals for new programs, schools, and ORUs to consult with the Library leadership early in the process of writing their proposal.
2. Advocate for increased budgets for Library collections, staffing, and operating costs. Determining adequate budgets for the Library will provide crucial support to reach the university's research goals.
3. Argue for increased space for the Library for student study space, Library administration, digital projects, data management, GIS, archives, and special collections. Similarly, determining adequate space for the Library will support the university's research goals.
4. Promote the establishment of the Sierra Nevada / Central Valley Archival Hub. This archival hub will provide crucial research resources.
5. Support the Library through the program review process, especially the review visit, if it happens in AY 21-22.
6. Communicate about open access, especially Gold OA, and transformative agreements with the university community with the support of Project Transform members.
7. Address Library support for research, teaching, and learning within the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

E. Library Budget challenges

Chair DePrano stated that a crucial goal this year would be to advocate for increased budgets for Library collections, staffing, and operating costs. Chair DePrano stated that determining adequate budgets for the Library will provide crucial support to reach the university's research goals.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of today's agenda

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Consultation with University Librarian – *Haipeng Li*

A. Library Reopening update

Librarian Li shared an update on the reopening of the Library. The Library was opened with limited hours starting August 16, 2021. The Library fully reopened with regular hours starting August 25, 2021. Librarian Li pointed out that more students seem to be using the Library now, compared to pre-COVID times.

B. Library Consultation on Undergraduate Electrical Engineering (EE) Degree (B.S.) Program Proposal

New program consultation with the Library has improved. Librarian Li emphasized how hard LASC has worked over the past couple of years to encourage improvements in this area. Librarian Li gave an update that Professor Sarah Kurtz contacted the Library regarding the proposed Undergraduate Electrical Engineering (EE) Degree (B.S.) Program. The Library is currently reviewing to provide feedback by September 23, 2021.

C. NEH Grant Proposal

The Library is working on the NEH Grant Proposal. Specifically, the title of this grant is called Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants: Capital Projects. The goal is to renovate spaces to support the vision of building the Sierra Nevada/Central Valley Research Archives. This is a five year grant period.

D. Space planning update

The current proposal suggests to renovate part of the Kolligian Library 4th floor space to turn it into an archive area. There are several archive collections that have been donated to the Library, however finding space for these collections continues to be a challenge. With the renovation of this space, the Library is hoping to accommodate for the future collections coming in.

E. Budget update

Librarian Li shared an update regarding the Library budget cut. Last year, the campus administration went through a budget cut exercise. There were two aspects in this exercise. One of them was to look at staffing. As a result, one position, the Evening & Weekend Supervisor position,

was cut from the Library. This action caused the reduction of Library service hours. The other aspect was to look at non-salary cut such as the collections budget. The Library will have a 13% cut in their collections budget. The projected collections budget deficit for this year will be over \$346,994. A LASC member pointed out that having the space for collections may be beneficial to everyone. Librarian Li mentioned that he will continue to work with the administration.

IV. Other Business

A. Zero Cost Course Materials/OER Program presentation – *Elizabeth Salmon, Research Services Librarian*

Zero Cost Course Materials project is a program that the Library started along with CETL to support the use of either Open Educational Resources (OER) or Library licensed e-resources in place of commercial texts. Open educational resources (OER) are free and openly licensed educational materials that can be used for teaching, learning, research, and other purposes. Instructors are eligible for this grant program if they currently require commercial texts for their course. The instructors who have already made their materials free and available to students are not eligible for this specific set of funding. The Library and CETL were able to put \$30,000 forward to distribute to faculty who applied to be a part of this program. Two levels of funding were available to those adopting zero-cost materials or modifying an existing OER.

Through this program, some projected outcomes include:

- 24/7 Access
 - From any internet connection, students will be able to access course materials.
- First day access to materials
 - All students have access to course materials by day 1 of class.
- Remove financial obstacles
 - Remove the financial barriers that may result in students not purchasing materials.
- Increase chances of success
 - Students enrolled in courses using OERs perform equally as well or better in terms of course completion and passing rates.
- Customizable materials
 - Materials can be customized to match the teaching styles and the learning needs of students.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am

Attest: Maria DePrano, LASC Chair