

**Committee on Library & Scholarly Communications (LASC)**

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Meeting Minutes

**I. Welcome and Introductions [1:30 – 1:35pm]**

**II. UCOLASC Meeting Update – *Member DePrano* [1:35 – 1:55pm]**

A. [UCOLASC Meeting Update](#) from May 31, 2023

California Digital Library (CDL) Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director Waibel shared that the Regents have approved a budget for the California Digital Library (CDL) licensed material that is now secure, as opposed to the one-off funding during the pandemic. The California Digital Library (CDL) has earned international attention for the UC's dedication to Open Access, as a Japanese delegation spoke to the California Digital Library (CDL) regarding Open Access issues. Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director Waibel also shared an update regarding the excellence of the Data Management Plan (DMP) tool, which is a free service of the California Digital Library (CDL) that assists researchers in creating high-quality data management plans that meet funder requirements.

UCOLASC was informed about the Regional Library Facilities (RLF) funding projects. There are two funding projects: Northern Regional Library Facilities (NRLF) and Southern Regional Library Facilities (SRLF) in the Bay Area and near UCLA. UC Berkeley and UCLA were given permanent funds to manage these facilities about 30 years ago, however the budget no longer reflects the expanded costs and increased service needs. The Regional Library Facilities (RLF) provide access to physical collections at 75% less cost and 65% less space than campus libraries. The RLF Funding Project seeks to determine an equitable funding model that maintains its services and mission.

Council of Librarians (CoUL) Chair and UCSB University Librarian Antelman presented an update on the CoUL's actions. President Drake and Vice Provost Hayes have challenged the libraries to engage in the key UC issues such as AI and affordable course materials. CoUL Chair Antelman provided an update on the Project Transform Working Group (PTWG). The PTWG is considering how to encourage Open Access publishing with smaller publishers with whom UC authors publish.

The Office of Scholarly Communications (OSC) has created a cheat sheet which guides UC authors through the process of publishing their scholarship Open Access. This cheat sheet will be circulated once it is available. The OSC has also created a [DEI resource](#) to help authors, editors, and editorial board members increase the diversity, equity, and inclusion of diverse voices in scholarly publishing. UCOLASC endorsed this resource and brought it to the Academic Council to publicize the resource.

Member DePrano provided an update on Project Library Expansion of Networked Delivery (LEND). The potential for expanded lawful use of digitized books held by academic and research libraries is being investigated. Project Library Expansion of Networked Delivery is exploring all aspects of digital access program, including user needs, legal frameworks, technical requirements, and collection scope – in designing these expanded services for UC faculty, staff, and students. There will be an opportunity to participate in a survey or focus groups. Member DePrano encouraged LASC members to participate to encourage this project to continue.

### III. Chair's Report – *Chair Ojeda* [1:55 – 2:20pm]

#### A. [LASC Goals for AY 2023-2024](#)

Chair Ojeda proposed the following goals for LASC to focus on this academic year:

1. **Promote the LASC Library White Paper.** Help disseminate the paper and promote its key messages to UC Merced faculty and administrators as well as other key constituents in the broader UC system.
2. **Promote Open Access Publishing.** Visit departmental faculty meetings (ideally with UC Merced subject-librarians) to explain how Open Access publishing works and to encourage faculty to pursue Open Access publishing throughout the research process.
3. **Address Library Budgetary Issues.**
  - a) Support the Library in its efforts to develop a budgetary model for the library in consultation with UC Merced leadership.
  - b) Advocate to UC Merced leadership on behalf of the Library when it comes to budgetary needs for staffing, space, and collections.
4. **Promote Inclusion of Library in Proposals.** Work with UGC, GC, and CAPRA to ensure authors of new degree programs, ORUs, or other centers on campus consult with the Library while drafting their proposals.

Chair Ojeda asked LASC members to suggest their ideas on what other goals the committee should address this upcoming year.

The final list of priorities will be shared with the Senate leadership.

#### B. Library Budget Challenges

Chair Ojeda reported on the Library budget challenges. In the previous academic years, the Library has faced a deficit in its budget. Although the administration has acknowledged the value of the Library, the budget deficit is unlikely to be resolved soon, given broader university-wide budgetary issues. The efforts to move to a global funding model for the university in which all units on campus contribute to the funding of the Library seems to have stalled. The budget deficit that the Library will be facing would result in cuts to the collections. This will impact the resources available to students and faculty. Chair Ojeda briefly mentioned the possibility of LASC communicating information to the Senate and Chairs of departments, regarding these impacts to the Library.

#### C. Open Access Meetings with Departments

The Library, both systemwide and at UC Merced, has been negotiating “transformative agreements” with publishers to transition away from a subscription-based model to an Open Access publishing model. Open Access allows published research to no longer be behind a paywall but instead become freely available and faculty will be able to retain the copyright on their work. The transformative agreements provide a few specific benefits to faculty such as discounted rates for Open Access publishing and funding for Open Access publishing for faculty who lack funds to publish their work.

Last academic year, LASC initiated a program to promote Open Access publishing on campus. LASC committee members and Library liaisons spoke at departmental faculty meetings about the value and practicality of Open Access publishing. The objective was to clear up any misconceptions around Open Access publishing and to demonstrate the process of Open Access publishing. Chair Ojeda reported that this program has gained the attention of faculty and librarians at other UC campuses who now want to adopt a similar program to communicate Open Access publishing.

Chair Ojeda would like to move forward with the following goals for Open Access:

1. **Continue the program.** Ideally each faculty member on LASC (in conjunction with the subject-area Librarian) would present to ~2 departments on campus each semester.
2. **Track presentations.** Chair Ojeda has created a spreadsheet that will allow LASC to keep track of who has presented in which departments in which semesters. This will allow LASC to estimate the number and percentages of faculty who have been part of the program.
3. **Generate FAQ list.** Identifying common questions from faculty will help LASC identify barriers to Open Access publishing and refine our presentation moving forward.

LASC has made an appearance at the following faculty department meetings in 2023:

- Life and Environmental Sciences (LES)
- Applied Mathematics (AM)
- Political Sciences (POL)
- Global Arts, Media and Writing Studies (GAMWS)
- Literature, Languages, & Cultures (LLC)
- Anthropology (ANTH)
- Interdisciplinary Humanities (IH)
- Economics and Business Management (EBM)

LASC also made a presentation to the Interdisciplinary Humanities (IH) graduate students. Head of Collection Services Dooley also presented at Molecular and Cell Biology (MCB) department meeting.

**Action:** LASC Members will track their Open Access presentations on the spreadsheet.

#### D. LASC White Paper

Chair Ojeda provided a background summary of the LASC White Paper. The LASC White Paper was suggested by former EVC/Provost Camfield in AY 2022-2023 to outline the contributions, goals, and needs of the Library. Former LASC Chair DePrano has collaborated with Associate University Librarian for Library Operations Scott, and Associate University Librarian for Research & Engagement Davidson Squibb to draft the LASC White Paper. The LASC White Paper is currently in the design stage and a final version will be available soon.

To pitch the message to the administration, Chair Ojeda would like to invite key members of the administration to upcoming LASC meetings. The LASC Analyst has reached out to invite both Interim EVC/P Zatz and VCR Wilson to attend the December 6, 2023, LASC meeting. In the future, Chair Ojeda would like to present the LASC White Paper to the Senate by attending committee meetings. Chair Ojeda is currently scheduled to attend the November 30, 2023 DivCo meeting to provide an update on LASC activities this semester. LASC members agreed that having faculty voices involved in the presentation would be important in delivering the message of the LASC White Paper.

By overlooking the Library consultation, issues will arise as the Library resources are limited in comparison with the demand. Many are not aware of the budget deficit that the Library faces. LASC plans to include a slide to remind faculty to consult with the Library during new program developments, when presenting the LASC White Paper.

**IV. LASC Resources – *Chair Ojeda* [2:20 – 2:25pm]**

This information has been distributed via email and is included on today's agenda for your reference.

- A. [Senate website](#)
- B. [LASC's website](#)
- C. [LASC's Box site](#)
- D. [Principles to Guide the Practice of Executive Session](#)
- E. [Consultation guidelines](#)

**For additional information, you may want to read the [Senate Policies and Procedures](#) and [Divisional Bylaws and Regulations](#).**

All campus and systemwide review items will be posted on LASC's Box folder and on the Senate website, here: <https://senate.ucmerced.edu/review-items>. Some review items may be assigned to one or more LASC reviewers before each scheduled meeting.

**V. Consent Calendar [2:25 – 2:25pm]**

- A. Approval of today's agenda

**Action:** Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

**VI. DivCo Request: Graduate Council's Policy for the Establishment of Hybrid Undergraduate/Graduate Programs [2:25 – 2:40pm]**

Please find the [GC memo](#) which includes the following:

1. Policy (pp. 50-52)
2. Procedures (tracked changes version on pp. 52-59)
3. Procedures (clean copy on pp. 60-66)

**Requested action:** Assign lead reviewer(s). Reviewer(s) comments to be sent to LASC analyst by Friday, October 6, 2023. LASC's comments on policy are due to DivCo by Friday, October 13, 2023.

LASC wrote a memo in response to the request for review of the proposed Policy for the Establishment of Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs (HDPs). LASC believed the proposed policy would be strengthened by explicitly stating that proposed HDPs must address their financial impact on university public goods, such as the Library. Monitoring the use of public goods on campus is vital to maintaining the health of the university. The policy proposal stated that proposed HDPs must adhere to both the UGC Review/Approval Policy for new undergraduate degree programs as well as the CCGA Handbook for new graduate programs. Although the UGC Review/Approval Policy requires proposers to include a statement from the Library in the proposal (a requirement that is not in the CCGA Handbook), it is the experience of LASC that this step is often overlooked by new degree proposers.

By making explicit the need for proposed HDPs to clarify their financial impact on university public goods, such as the Library, the proposed policy could take one small step towards rectifying this problem.

**Action:** LASC has submitted a memo to the Senate Chair and GC Chair on October 10, 2023.

**VII. Consultation with University Librarian – Associate University Librarian for Research & Engagement Davidson Squibb on Behalf of Haipeng Li [2:40 – 3:00pm]**

A. [Library Budget Call Allocation Discussion](#)

LASC members have received the response from Interim EVC/P Zatz regarding the Library budget request. In AY 2022-2023, the Library expected a deficit of \$327,000 for the collections. Associate University Librarian for Research & Engagement Davidson Squibb reported that the Library has been allocated a temporary funding of \$100,000 per year for 3 years, effective in the beginning of Fiscal Year 2024. Through this funding, there will be \$3,000 offered to each new Senate faculty member to cover Library resources such as books and data sets. Since this is a one-time fund, there are restrictions to what the faculty can purchase. Faculty will not be able to use these funds to cover ongoing costs such as journal subscriptions. The Library is asking faculty to respond by March 1, 2024, regarding their request for desired resources using these allocated funds.

The Library has also requested funds for collections, 3 additional positions, and an increase to Library operations funding. However, there were no funds allocated to these areas.

B. NEH Grant – Sierra Nevada - Central Valley Archives Project Update

Associate University Librarian for Research & Engagement Davidson Squibb provided background that the Library was awarded \$750,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), which the Chancellor matched to become a total of 1.5 million dollars. These funds were used to establish the Sierra Nevada Central Valley Archive project. The Library is currently working with a local team and architecture group to confirm the work plan and associated costs. The key parts of this project are the expansion of the archives on the fourth floor of the Library. Expanding archives will provide secure storage as these unique materials require humidity and temperature controls. The project will also include the renovation of an existing space to ensure there are no existing water pipes over the archives and to create a public reading room. Another part that the project will focus on will be an instruction room for archival research and programming.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.  
Attest: Christopher Ojeda, LASC Chair