

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (LASC)

Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 27, 2024

10:30am – 12:00pm

I. Welcome and Introductions**II. Chair's Report – *Chair Blois*****A. [Open Access \(OA\) meetings with Departments](#)**

Promoting Open Access (OA) has been one of LASC's ongoing goals for the past several years. LASC has worked towards this goal by visiting different Departments around campus and delivering a presentation specifically on the UC's transformative agreements. Chair Blois provided a recap of the Departments that LASC has successfully presented at. Chair Blois suggested a co-presentation model for new members that are not familiar with the nature of the presentations.

B. Discussion of the LASC Library White Paper with EVC/P Dumont on August 14, 2024

Chair Blois provided a brief history for those who are new and not familiar with the White Paper, and provided insight about the previous presentations and administrators that LASC members have presented the White Paper to.

C. Upcoming event: Senate and Administration Governance Retreat on October 30, 2024

- There will also be a Senate and Administration dinner on October 29, 2024.
- Vice Chair Quinn is scheduled to attend both events, with dinner availability determined by location.

III. Informational: LASC Resources – *Chair Blois*

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](#)
- F. [CoC's Guide to Populating Academic Senate Committees: Leadership and Membership Commitments](#)

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

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

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

IV. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of today's agenda

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

V. LASC Conflict of Interest Policy

The draft conflict of interest policy can be found [here](#).

Action: Members approved the draft policy. The draft policy has been sent to the Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE) and the Senate Chair for their consideration.

VI. UCOLASC Meeting Update – *Member DePrano*

A. Open Access (OA) Ambassador Program update

Member DePrano shared that an Open Access (OA) publishing decision tree, intended to help faculty navigate the complicated open access publishing environment, has been completed by a UC Office of Scholarly Communication (OSC) working group. The document consists of information on why one should publish through open access, the UC Open Access (OA) policies, key terms, and who to contact to address any questions.

Member DePrano noted that in 2022, UC Merced published 64.4% of its research through open access, while 35.6% was published in closed or behind a paywall. In 2023, the percentage of research published through open access rose to 78.6%, with 21.4% published closed or behind a paywall. A contributing factor to this increase was UC Merced's Open Access (OA) Ambassador Program. In 2023, UC Merced ranked among the top campuses for overall open access participation and demonstrated the most significant improvement, achieving a 14.2% reduction in opt-outs from 2022 to 2023. Member DePrano expressed gratitude to LASC members for their efforts in educating the campus community about open access publishing.

B. UCOLASC Meeting update from May 10, 2024

Member DePrano shared that a California Digital Library (CDL) initiative aimed at making data more accessible and shareable has resulted in a machine-actionable approach to data management and sharing. This project will improve compliance as data

sharing becomes increasingly required. Pilot programs at UC focus on use cases that enable institutions and researchers to engage with data management effectively. Member DePrano also shared updates on Project Library Expansion of Networked Delivery (LEND), that will investigate the potential for expanded lawful use of digitized books held by academic and research libraries.

VII. LASC Goals for AY 2024-2025 – All

LASC's AY 2023-2024 goals can be found [here](#) as a reference.

Chair Blois presented the [AY 2024-2025 goals](#), which include ongoing objectives that LASC has addressed in previous years. Members agreed to expand the second goal from “Promote Open Access (OA) Publishing” to “Promote Open Access (OA) Scholarship.” Members agreed to continue to discuss and modify these goals.

Action: The [LASC Goals for AY 2024-2025](#) has been uploaded to LASC's Box folder. Members will continue the discussion of LASC's goals during the October 11 meeting.

VIII. Consultation with University Librarian – Haipeng Li

University Librarian Li will provide brief updates on the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) project and the Library service hours.

Due to the deficit in the Library's budget, the student salary budget has decreased, resulting in a reduction of the Library service hours by 20%. University Librarian Li shared that the Library has received complaints from students and faculty and is keeping record of this data.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Attest: Jessica Blois, LASC Chair