

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION 2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC) met twice and held two additional conference calls in Academic Year 2007-2008, to conduct business in accordance with its charge, outlined in [Senate Bylaw 185](#), to advise the president about the administration of University libraries. Highlights of the committee's major activities are outlined briefly below.

Advocating for Open Access

UCOLASC discussed next steps for last year's proposed UC Open Access Policy, which failed to gain Academic Council approval. The principal of open access gained wide support, but there were reservations about the proposed implementation. The Committee also discussed the need for UC faculty to add their voice to the national conversation about open access initiatives and legislation supported by Harvard University, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and others. The failed UC Open Access policy recommended a mechanism by which the University would negotiate collectively with commercial publishers to ensure that faculty scholarship is placed on the Web in an open access repository. UCOLASC agreed that the Committee should continue to consider a better formulation for the policy, but decided it would be important to achieve widespread faculty support for a basic set of open access principles before submitting a new or revised policy or a Harvard-style resolution to the Senate.

The committee drafted a short resolution outlining the goals and benefits of open access – maximizing the dissemination and impact of faculty research; controlling journal subscription prices; restoring budgetary balance to scholarly communication publishing; increasing faculty copyright rights, and fulfilling UC's obligation to make taxpayer-funded research publicly available. The statement will be forwarded to next year's UCOLASC for further refinement.

The committee also discussed plans for a series of fall 2008 campus Town Hall meetings, jointly organized with the Office of Scholarly Communications and the Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Advisory Committee (SLASIAC). The meetings are intended to encourage broad discussion about the future of open access, scholarly communication, and other initiatives around journal publishing.

Editorial Board for the Office of Scholarly Communication Website

UCOLASC agreed to participate in a small editorial board established by the Office of Scholarly Communications (OSC) to oversee the future development, direction, and maintenance of the [Reshaping Scholarly Communications Website](#). The board consists of two UCOLASC representatives and two Scholarly Communications Officers (SCOs). The board's initial discussion centered on the development of an editorial philosophy for the site, which will focus on three general areas: 1) providing timely, authoritative news and information about current scholarly communication issues; 2) Identifying services, with the help of UCOLASC, which directly address faculty interests and concerns; and 3) Including content that promotes more understanding of major issues such as open access and copyright management.

Concern about Library and Scholarly Communication Budgets

UCOLASC believed it would be in a better position to make reasoned recommendations about libraries and scholarly communication with more detailed budget information. The committee asked UCOP for systemwide data on library and scholarly communication infrastructure funding as it relates to faculty FTE. UCOP was unable to gather data on “scholarly communication infrastructure” expenditures, but responded with data calculating the ratios of total library expenditures and materials and binding-only expenditures per faculty FTE by campus and in total for both tenure-track faculty and all faculty. UCOLASC members shared and discussed the data with their local committees. The data revealed some stark funding differentials across campuses. The differences may be affected in part by other campuses’ unique library cost factors, but the Committee thought the comparative information could help some campuses advocate for more funding. Such information might also help individual faculty evaluate specific publishing options on a cost/benefit basis.

Report on Journal Negotiations

In April, California Digital Library Collections Director Ivy Anderson joined UCOLASC to report on recent and forthcoming negotiations with journal publishers for systemwide subscriptions to shared electronic journals. UCOLASC expressed strong support for including open access provisions as part of agreements and offered its support in leveraging support for negotiations. The committee also noted that faculty are generally unaware of the real cost of journals and suggested that UC develop a mechanism to inform faculty of those costs each time they use a journal – for instance, by including links to subscription cost information next to each listing or by indicating the cost of downloading each article.

First Book Subvention Policy Proposal

UCOLASC continued work on a draft subvention policy intended to support junior UC faculty preparing to submit a manuscript for their first academic book publication. In developing the proposal, The Committee was motivated by the reduced opportunities for publication facing faculty, particularly first-time authors in the humanities and social sciences, who need to publish books to gain tenure and advance their careers. As growing proportions of library budgets are devoted to online journal subscriptions, fewer books are published and academic publishing opportunities are diminished. While faculty members in the hard sciences would not be excluded from the proposal, it was anticipated that the majority of awards would go to faculty in the humanities and social sciences. UCOLASC decided to develop two policy proposal options in addition to the current draft. The first would be a more narrowly focused policy addressing specific disciplines where a monograph is traditionally required by the peer review process. The second would be a broader statement addressing the need for more support in all of the areas of the University facing publishing challenges.

Campus Reports

UCOLASC devoted part of each regular meeting to member reports about issues facing divisional Senate library committees. In these discussions, faculty members touched on library budget and space issues; strategies for increasing the profile of libraries in the long-term planning process and for increasing the influence of librarians in shared governance; the Google Books Library scanning project and other local projects to digitize and preserve

library holdings; journal access; local initiatives around open access, including strategies for informing faculty about the Harvard Open Access resolution; local implementation of the NIH policy; implementation of the next generation Melvyl pilot project; and the future form of libraries.

Other Issues and Additional Business

In response to a request for formal comment from the Academic Council, UCOLASC submitted views about the Information Technology Guidance Committee Report, “Creating a UC Cyberinfrastructure.”

UCOLASC also discussed a UCOP report detailing the results of a survey on faculty attitudes toward scholarly communication ([*Faculty Attitudes and Behaviors Regarding Scholarly Communication*](#)), and a report on UC’s role as publisher ([*Publishing Needs and Opportunities at the University of California*](#)). The committee discussed the need to curtail growing trends of commercialization and unsustainable pricing in academic publishing, and a decision by *Science* magazine and the American Association for the Advancement of Science to discontinue participation in JSTOR. Finally, UCOLASC expressed a concern that the academic personnel process does not reward faculty who take creative publishing risks or who choose to publish their scholarship in non-traditional forms or venues. The committee wants to initiate a broader discussion about the changing interdisciplinary nature of academia and how an inflexible culture and incentive structure may discourage faculty from electronic and other non-traditional forms of scholarship and publishing.

Committee Consultations and Acknowledgements

UCOLASC acknowledges the contributions of its administrative consultants and guests. The committee benefited from regular consultation and reports from Director of Systemwide Library Planning Gary Lawrence; Director of Publishing and Strategic Initiatives Catherine Candee; 2006-07 LAUC President Robert Heyer-Gray; University Librarians Convener Thomas Leonard (UCB); California Digital Library Interim Executive Director Laine Farley; and UCB Scholarly Communications Officer Margaret Phillips. UCOLASC also occasionally consulted the Academic Senate chair and vice-chair about issues facing the Academic Senate.

Respectfully submitted:

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