

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

ACADEMIC SENATE

**Minutes of Meeting**

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

**Present:** John Hildebrand (Chair), Maria DePrano (Vice Chair), Christine Rosen (Berkeley), Maxwell Fung (Davis Alternate), Rob Steele (Irvine), Robert Zeithammer (Los Angeles), Susan Laxton (Riverside), Mark Hanna (San Diego), Soo-Jeong Lee (San Francisco), Rich Schneider (San Francisco), Sven Spieker (Santa Barbara), Abe Stone (Santa Cruz), Hannah Dolan (Undergraduate Student Representative, Davis), Bryan Reynolds (Irvine), Mary-Michelle Moore (LAUC President), Günter Waibel (CDL), Katie Fortney (CDL), Catherine Mitchell (CDL), Miranda Bennett (CDL), Charlotte Roh (CDL), Danielle Watters Westbrook (CDL), Mat Willmott (CDL), Allegra Swift (Scholarly Communication Librarian, San Diego), Kristin Antelman (CoUL), Maryann Martone (San Diego), Jeffrey MacKie-Mason (University Librarian), Susan Cochran (Chair, Academic Council), Stefani Leto (Analyst)

**I. Consent Calendar, Chair's Announcements**

1. Chair Hildebrand suggested that UCOLASC hold its final meeting in person, and discuss meeting options at the February 2023 meeting.
2. He noted that the libraries are likely to be affected by systemwide financial stress after the graduate student labor issues are resolved. He requested that members inform UCOLASC if cuts are proposed on their campuses.
  - Discussion noted the key part played by the libraries in the UC's stellar reputation, based on collections, librarians, and staff.
  - VC Waibel suggested engaging with senior administrators as a proactive approach to secure funding for the libraries and CDL. Members agreed to wait until the labor dispute has concluded before deciding on an approach.
  - Concerns about the shrinking public funding of the entire University and therefore the libraries prompted discussion of working with faculty associations and the wider California higher education system. Adapting to lower levels of public funding will continue to negatively affect the University. Proactive methods are part of a broad process to involve stakeholders to support public education, especially alumni and the wider California business community.
  - The LAUC President reminded the committee that staff, as well as collections, are negatively affected by diminished library funding.

**Action:** The committee approved the agenda.

**II. CDL Update**

AVP Waibel announced a new staff member, Miranda Bennet, as Director of Shared Collections. Vice Provost Doug Haynes and the new Provost will supervise and receive information about the

libraries and CDL. Waibel noted that CDL's shared collections budget will be fully restored with permanent funds in FY 2023-24. This ongoing budget was moved to temporary funds in FY 2020-21 to help address a \$50 million structural deficit at OP; temporary funds have been used through FY 2022-23. This return to permanent funding for the CDL shared collections budget is thanks to systemwide advocacy, including UCOLASC's letter of support. This CDL shared collections budget is part of a UC-Libraries-wide funding coalition to advance and fund systemwide access to core scholarly content and open access publishing across UC. The CDL remains under-staffed, although recruitment is ongoing.

The CDL has launched a second pre-print server, EcoEvoRxiv, that hosts preprints on ecology, evolution, and conservation projects. Two of the Open Science Services with which the CDL is significantly involved with, the Dryad Data Repository, and the Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR), received recommendation for investment funding from the Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services. In addition, the CDL and the UC Libraries won two tech awards, the Operational Excellence Award in Gold for the Merritt Preservation System Project and the Larry L. Sautter Award for Innovation in Information Technology by the Transforming the University Library Service (SILS).

### **III. Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship (HELIOS) Working Group on Institutional and Departmental Policy Language**

HELIOS is a project of the National Academy of Sciences that has cohort of colleges and universities working to advance open scholarship on their own campuses and across higher education. Maryanne Martone represents UCOP on behalf of the Academic Senate. AVP Waibel is a library representative, and other campuses also have sent representatives.

She noted the top-down approach of the project. Areas of discussion include when to buy, build, or partner to implement open scholarship infrastructures, best practices, and cross-sector alignment for these efforts. The goal is to operationalize the White House's directive on open access (OA) publishing. The project wants participant institutions to support a draft statement. Concerns exist regarding the clarity and applicability of the working group's language for the UC. She will work with Chair Cochran to clarify how the Academic Senate wants to interact with the Working Group. Feedback from faculty will help UC representatives highlight wider faculty concerns to the working group.

- Discussion noted the STEM-heavy nature of this project, and that open access is a very different experience for faculty working in the humanities, citing very high costs for images and copyright permissions in art history, for example.
- A member opined that HELIOS believes that delegations represent institutions that have full commitment from the highest levels, and their reports to leadership enable top-down directives to facilitate open scholarship. The UC of course has shared governance and the Academic Senate must participate in this discussion.

### **IV. DEI in scholarly communications resource review**

Catherine Mitchell presented a draft version of CDL's resource highlighting challenges across the

entire publishing enterprise to DEI, proposing best practices to address them, and strategies for improvement. UCOLASC's 2018 "Declaration of Rights and Principles" informs the work being done by CDL now, even though that declaration did not directly comment on DEI issues in publishing.

She noted that work on the resource will continue and suggested that UCOLASC may wish to partner with other Senate committees to provide insight and suggestions. Feedback is welcomed.

- Chair Hildebrand noted the process for getting this information to CAPs as part of presenting faculty contributions to DEI. This approach may represent a new way to think about scholarly communication. He proposed UCOLASC draft a statement regarding presenting to CAP, share with UCAADE for comment, then send it to Council for endorsement.

## V. eLife's New Publishing Model

Rich Schneider presented a proposal for a new publishing model by eLife, an open access journal in the sciences. The new model will basically function as a review service for pre-prints and will cost \$2000 per submission. Only articles that are first posted as pre-prints will be considered by eLife. Authors submit their pre-prints for initial evaluation by the journal editorial staff. If a pre-print is deemed appropriate for the journal, then eLife will send the article to peer-reviewers who have subject-matter expertise. After the review process, the reviews will be posted alongside the manuscript. Authors will have the option to publish the work as is, write a public response to the reviewers, and/or publish a revised version of the manuscript (which the reviewers may re-review). In the end, articles will not be "accepted" or "rejected" but rather will be published as the final version and indexed as are other publications. The entire review process will also be published along with the original manuscript and any revisions. eLife claims this new model will help end a reliance on impact factors and the "halo effect" of prestigious journals that rely on an artificial perception of quality. eLife believes that their new model will emphasize the quality of the work rather than where something is published. eLife has asked for a letter in support of this experimental approach from UCOLASC, because of the Academic Senate's influential leadership on open access publishing.

- Chair Hildebrand asked if this is meant to be the model of the future, to answer current problems in scholarly communication. He noted that UCOLASC has never said there is only one way to publish and is willing to experiment with different approaches.
- UCOLASC can write a statement in support, noting positive aspects of this model, but CAP acceptance of this approach would likely be a long process. Discussion included ways CAP's consideration of publishing would change should scholarship be judged using this model. Committee members noted that this topic should go to CAP in addition to UCOLASC.
- Committee members expressed concerns about maintaining quality of scholarship without a robust rejection system. It was also noted how much of the current conversation is geared towards and by the sciences. Committee members noted that this model places exceptional demands on readers who would have to make their own assessments about the quality of a given work without the benefit of a decision by the experts in the field, as well as reviewers who should be remunerated for their efforts. Currently, UC professors provide about \$20M of effort in peer reviewing; this kind of approach would help daylight hitherto unnoticed work.

## **VI. CoUL Update**

CoUL continues to support and work to clarify local policies for PI exceptions for librarians, as they presented to UCOLASC in May, 2022. Systemwide plans include exploration of a UC service for loaning digital books, evaluation and planning for collection management, and continued expansion of UC Libraries' services through the Systemwide Integrated Library System (SILS). Project LEND (Library Expansion of Networked Delivery) will extend the ability of libraries to meet users' demands for digitized books. A Systemwide Print Collections Management Strategy Working Group will guide UC Libraries as they make decisions about print resources and management. A task force, charged by the Provost, will review Regional Library Facilities' budget and funding model. In addition, the CoUL proposes adding DEI merit review criteria for librarians to the APM.

## **VII. eScholarship Strategy**

eScholarship at UC has grown to 95 publications, each affiliated with at least one UC campus. This effort advances the Presidential open access publishing policy and includes professionalized publications and practices. Institutional publishers have a lot to offer, need good tools, and need greater access. CDL noted that UCOLASC's feedback to the eScholarship team can serve as an informal form of governance in the absence of a traditional editorial board, as an advisory board.

- The committee noted some concerns about a hegemonic approach crowding out a traditional form of print journals published by Universities, as well as the United States playing an outsized role in the international publishing world. CDL was urged to adopt a perspective not limited to the sciences and hope for a future including diversity of publication possibilities including print and traditionally reviewed publishing. Ninety percent of eScholarship's publications is humanities. Providing access to humanities and social science research through eScholarship helps provide context and framework for research in science such as in the case of vaccine research.
- A committee member expressed concern that eScholarship can create difficulties finding research from authors with common names. In response, it was noted that name disambiguation is problematic in many areas of scholarly research, and that eScholarship is not meant to be internally searched, but as a result from outside searches.

## **VIII. Consultation with Senate Leadership**

Regents: Chair Cochran presented a briefing on the faculty experience survey to the Academic and Student Affairs committee. A retreat with Regents and Chancellors provided opportunities to make connections for the Academic Senate and deepen understanding of what those UC constituencies prioritize.

Labor issues: There have been partial resolutions; UCOP still negotiating with the UAW. The Senate recognizes that faculty want the best for their students and share concerns that the outcome of the strikes will have negative impacts on the work of the University. The Senate has always supported library funding and will continue to do so despite unknown future effects on the budget due to labor issues' resolution.

- Committee members shared concerns related to effects of a resolution to the labor issues and relations between faculty and graduate students. Chair Cochran emphasized the support of the systemwide Senate to the libraries.
- Discussion noted that UCOLASC would do well to consider ways to translate the committee's work into demonstrable public good for the eyes of the Regents.

## **IX. Meet OA Publishing/Project Transform**

UC has the goal of transitioning to a 100 percent OA model as well as maintaining the sustainability of library collections by keeping journal prices within reach for libraries' budgets. 2023 is the ten-year anniversary of the systemwide Academic Senate OA policy.

CDL continues to negotiate OA agreements with new publishers, in addition to existing agreements with publishers major and minor. Currently, the UC pays roughly \$50M to publishers for access to read articles. In addition, some authors (or their funders) pay for OA publishing. Costs across the board are rising for journals. If the current model does not change, the projected costs for UC would be \$120M. The UC works to shift the underlying model to repurpose previously committed subscription monies into multiple payment streams for OA publishing. No author should be unable to publish OA because the libraries support authors without funding to choose OA.

- Discussion asked about journals which charge much more for OA publishing than the cost of the journal overall. This kind of cost management is part of the negotiations for OA agreements with journals.
- It was noted that authors can opt out of OA agreements at any time. Committee members opined that opting out was beneficial for some humanities professors.
- Not all publishers have OA agreements with the UC, so some are more expensive currently if OA is chosen. The CDL is increasingly focusing on humanities-heavy publishers.

## **X. Project Transform Working Group Update**

As of the end of 2022, there are now fifteen OA transformative contracts, with both large and small publishers. Currently about 50 percent of UC articles are eligible for OA.

Confusion about costs leads some UC authors to opt out of OA in hybrid journals, whether they believe it will cost the library less to not use OA publishing, or do not know about library funds to pay if they do not have grant funds. Another Project Transform goal is that authors will retain rights to their own works. To that end, the Project Transform team negotiates on behalf of UC authors to grant only non-exclusive licenses to publishers, as well as encouraging authors to choose less-restrictive licenses.

## **XI. Office of Scholarly Communications (OSC) Update**

Licensing options in the UC Publication Management System have been updated by the Office of Scholarly Communications working group. Creative Commons licensing is one choice authors can make, but the mechanism is a vendor-created portal. Changes in the portal's interface a few years

ago led to a precipitous drop in authors choosing Creative Commons licenses. The vendors were not motivated to change the choice stream because of planned web page updates. In response to suggestions from OSC, some changes were instituted. Now the interface forces users to make a choice about a license. This is a stopgap measure because of the upcoming vendor-driven changes. The UC is a large customer and will have input to the methods used for license selection.

- Discussion included suggestions to make the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license the default method, but that would create an extremely open assignment of use rights to work, including commercial access, and many UC authors would not want that, but might accidentally select it if that was the default.

Another OSC working group project, “Securing Your Legacy,” helps researchers to collect older publications as a self-serve toolkit, to gather a lifetime of research in one place. There is of course tension between comprehensiveness and approachability. The workgroup asks UCOLASC members to join a one-time session to provide feedback on the toolkit.

- Chair Hildebrand suggested that the workgroup reach out to emeriti offices, and the emeriti society, as a community thinking about their legacy. The Senate “In Memoriam” writers could then link to the legacy page.

## **XII. Campus Updates**

Berkeley – The campus continues to struggle with the defunding of the library. There are no remaining financial reserves, and problems hiring staff. Buildings with libraries have been taken down; replacement buildings don’t have libraries, so students have fewer library options. The senate demanded that the administration re-fund libraries. These pressing concerns have precluded campus discussions of OA publishing.

Davis – The library committee has been focusing on OA and hybrid publishing.

Irvine – The science library on campus has been fully renovated.

Merced – Money for library operations allowed the campus to offer Saturday hours following two years of weekend closures. A committee retreat in January on Being an Open Access Ambassador trained all committee members who now practice sharing the information in their own department and with faculty members. The committee has representatives from each school, so the effort will cover the entire campus. The committee is also writing a white paper about library functions and arguing for reliable library funding.

Los Angeles – Most discussion on campus focuses on OA policy and how to enhance authors’ information and understanding. The library committee is creating a one-page document for faculty that will widely disseminate information about OA publishing.

Riverside – The library is having trouble hiring at every service level. Much of the challenge results from a dearth of applicants wanting to work in-person. Library hours have been reduced, leading to an undergraduate sit-in in protest. There is a gap of flow in information from the divisional committee to the faculty. The committee is thinking about disseminating a monthly

email highlighting key information.

San Francisco – Last year there was successful outreach about OA; this year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OA policy. Funding was received from the Chancellor’s fund for an oral history of UCSF. The next application for the Chancellor’s fund will fund a feasibility study for a writing center for scholarly work.

Santa Barbara – The committee is finding communicating OA information to faculty challenging. They are working to include humanities faculty as stakeholders, perhaps by sending committee members to meet with various departments on campus.

Santa Cruz – The library committee continues to focus on disseminating information, much of it regarding OA publishing. The campus has contracted with a new textbook vendor, Academos, to which the textbook portion has been outsourced. Some concerns have arisen regarding the vendor not showing available library copies to students.

The committee adjourned at 3:24 pm

Minutes prepared by Stefani Leto, Committee Analyst

Attest: John Hildebrand, Committee Chair