

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
ON
LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION
2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC) met three times in the 2011-2012 academic year 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.

Open Access

This year, UCOLASC dedicated significant time to crafting an open access policy for UC. The adoption of open access policies at Harvard, Princeton and other universities contributed to renewed interest among UC faculty in this issue. The main goal of the policy is to make faculty's work more available and a secondary goal is to change publishers' practices. This policy would make it possible for faculty to retain rights that they have previously given away to the publishers and UC. Based on the last attempt to pass a policy at UC, the committee agreed that such a policy must come from the faculty and be passed by the Senate. The committee thoughtfully debated the merits of having one systemwide policy versus ten campus specific policies, and concluded that having one unified UC policy that publishers are notified about would be preferable.

The current proposed policy was crafted in conversation with many constituencies. It has been extensively discussed and has the support of the Library and COLASC committees of all ten campuses, the California Digital Library, the University Council of Librarians, several graduate student associations, the Library Association of the University of California, as well as the University Committee on Academic Personnel and the University Committee on Research Policy. The University Committee on Academic Freedom and the University Committee on Faculty Welfare both communicated concerns that were discussed and addressed at UCOLASC's May meeting. UCOLASC replied by letter addressing these concerns in detail.

The [proposed policy](#) was sent out for systemwide review in August with a January 2013 deadline for comments. UCOLASC has requested that the Academic Council adopt this policy and forward it to the President for implementation as a presidential policy.

UC Press

In October, UCOLASC was joined by Allison Mudditt, the Director of the University of California Press, for a discussion about the UC Press and issues related to scholarly communication. The committee learned about the challenges faced by the Press which include declining books revenue and modest journal growth, escalating staff costs and high direct cost structure, large inventory build up, reduction in UC subsidy, lack of clear direction and the need to focus on growth and profit. The Press has proposed a new content portfolio with a major emphasis on scholarly monographs which will bring the Press's mission much closer to the academic mission. The sources of revenue for the

Press's scholarly publications are libraries, students and faculty, and UCOLASC encouraged consultation with faculty in the future. One concern for UCOLASC is that the proposed portfolio will not necessarily improve the situation with respect to who has to pay, since the libraries are a major source of revenue for the Press.

While it is not clear whether it would be viable for the Press to publish primarily in open access, UCOLASC would like to explore what role the Press could have with open access publishing at UC. The standard being discussed by UCOLASC with respect to commercial publishers may eventually need to be the model for the Press, but if a product is to be available in open access there needs to be some way for the Press to recover its costs. Although UC Press journals are not very expensive for CDL, it is unclear that open access will save money. With the understanding that open access is only one part of the equation, UCOLASC looks forward to future conversations with the UC Press about sustainable publishing models.

Update on Journal Negotiations

UCOLASC received regular updates on the status of journal negotiations from Ivy Anderson, Director of Collections at the California Digital Library. The UC negotiating team feels comfortable with where the discussions are going. A large number of negotiations are coming up in 2013 and to prepare the libraries will be performing a value analysis of all of the journals licensed systemwide using metrics developed by CDL. This will provide objective data with which to re-evaluate and potentially scale back large packages. A possibility is to make significant cuts to these packages in order to redirect those funds toward open access journals. The analysis will show areas of most and least use and value. CDL will discuss these issues with UCOLASC especially the impacts of any major cuts. Another important aspect of the negotiations is how high of a priority open access should be when entering negotiations.

Last year, UC began discussions with Nature about a transformative model, and UCOLASC encouraged CDL to replicate this with other journal publishers. The discussions with NPG continued until it became clear that UC and NPG were not moving forward with the proposed model. NPG was unwilling to produce a joint public statement because of their internal discussions and UC representatives agreed that there was nothing concrete to announce. As an alternative to a statement, UC prepared a letter with an update for people interested in what is going on but there was no plan to make an announcement about this update.

CDL Budget Planning Exercise

As a result of last year's change in the funding streams, each campus is allowed to retain the funds it generates and pay a tax to UCOP, and this will have an impact on CDL's budget. Through the funding streams process, the campuses will pay for CDL and therefore each campus' decisions about the allocation of funds will impact CDL's budget. UCOP asked CDL to prepare budget scenarios based on a reduction of 25% or an increase of 25%. It is important to note that UC's financial crisis has already led to a 20% reduction of CDL's budget over the past three years. The process included looking at what CDL provides to the larger community such as work with the Hathi Trust. Possible

scenarios include completely eliminating one time funding for collections if there is a reduction or restoring some funding for collections should funding increase. There is significant concern about cuts to CDL's budget in light of cuts to the campus library budgets. Information about CDL's target budget and the response to UCOP was not available in time for UCOLASC to discuss during this academic year.

Legislative Issues

This year, UCOLASC monitored several pieces of federal legislation related to open access issues. UCOLASC wrote a letter opposing the [Research Works Act](#) (RWA) and CDL commented on this Act as well. UCOLASC's letter was approved by Council in February and submitted to the president. Over the course of several months, Elsevier and many major supporters eventually withdrew their support for the RWA, and this legislation was not moving forward at the time of UCOLASC's last meeting this year. A boycott of Elsevier, which had at least six thousand supporters, was thought to be a response to Elsevier's support of the Research Works Act. Notably, NPG opposed the Research Works Act.

A new version of the [Federal Research Public Access Act](#) (FRPA) was introduced this year, and UCOLASC wrote a letter supporting this Act. As of May, the status of FRPA was unclear although the White House had apparently expressed interest in the legislation. UCOLASC will continue to monitor FRPA and other relevant legislation at both the federal and state levels. UCOLASC's letter of support was approved by Council in February and submitted to the president.

Joint Meeting with University Librarians

UCOLASC met with the University Librarians in February to discuss common topics of interest, including open access and the CDL budget.

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..

Other Issues and Additional Business

In response to requests for formal comment from the Academic Council, UCOLASC submitted views on the following:

- Copyright Recommendations for UC
- APMs 010, 015, and 016

Committee Consultations and Acknowledgements

UCOLASC acknowledges the contributions of its administrative consultants and guests. The committee benefited from consultation and reports from University Librarians Convener Virginia Steel (UCSC), California Digital Library Executive Director Laine Farley, California Digital Library Director of Collections Ivy Anderson, and Librarians Association of the University of California President Mitchell Brown (UCI). UCOLASC

also occasionally consulted the Academic Senate chair and vice chair about issues facing the Academic Senate.

Respectfully submitted:

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