



## OFFICE OF THE LAUC PRESIDENT

August 29, 2019

### 2019 LAUC President's Report

I am pleased to report on the activities of LAUC for the 2018/2019 year. LAUC has had an active and introspective year. I am confident that our transition leaves a renewed sense of purpose, value and commitment. The LAUC President and President Elect met with the Council of University Librarians (CoUL) twice this year. We made good use of the opportunities to convey updates related to ongoing areas of focus for librarians, including our barriers to engagement assessment, high engagement with offered R&PD grants, and concerns related to allocation and distribution of campus level professional development funding. The engagement of LAUC with the Academic Freedom Working Group enabled us to be connected to an important corollary of the bargaining process that was successfully concluded between the union and UCOP this year.

### Academic Freedom

An important issue facing UC Librarians is the application of academic freedom to the work we are engaged in as non-faculty academic appointees. In January, I was invited to represent LAUC on the *Working Group on privileges, protections, obligations, and responsibilities of non-faculty academic appointees*. This group was co-chaired by George Blumenthal, Chancellor UC Santa Cruz and Robert May, Chair Academic Council. Our process included consultations with LAUC exec board as well as with a group of represented librarians. The committee's recommendations include the establishment of a new APM section (APM-011) that articulates the extension of academic freedom protections to librarians (and other non-faculty academic appointees) when they are engaged in teaching and research, as well as analogous protections when engaged in other professional work in support of the University's mission (collection development, for example). The committee developed recommended adjudication procedures referencing those articulated in APM-010 and APM-140. In addition, an FAQ was submitted explaining key aspects of our process. The proposed documents have emerged from a formal review period. Edits and concerns were collected during the review period, and addressed during a period of editing. The final recommendations have gone forward to the University Provost and President. In support of this issue, the LAUC exec board developed and distributed [a statement in support of academic freedom for librarians](#).

### Value of LAUC / Barriers to Engagement

The past few years have seen challenges in developing a full slate of nominees for LAUC statewide and local elections, as well as complete rosters for local and statewide committees. The LAUC statewide exec board has engaged the process of assessing how well LAUC communicates its value / work, as well what barriers exist for UC librarians in engaging LAUC positions. To this end, campus chapters held focused discussions on the topic. At the 2019 Assembly, we held a forum in the afternoon that synthesized the discussions at the campuses. From these notes, the LAUC executive board created a [table of action items](#) broken down into areas of communication, positions / nominating, committees, and general focus. Some of these action items have already been addressed, others will form part of standing or ad hoc committee charges in the 2019-2020 LAUC year.

### **Professional Development Funds**

This has been a very busy year for the Research and Professional Development Committee (R&PD) and their management of grant applications. The spring call for applications is noteworthy for far exceeding available funds to cover approved applications. I worked with the R&PD Chair to determine a course of action that makes good use of LAUC Presidential Funds to bolster the available resources to fund these requests. Some \$7000 in additional discretionary Presidential Funds were made available as supplemental funding for R&PD. Both I and the President Elect reported to CoUL that professional engagement is strong in the UC Libraries, and that serious consideration needs to be given to increasing allocations supporting professional work at the campus level. In our discussion with CoUL in the spring, we submitted for their consideration a table that illustrates the variation in funding and methods of distribution of local professional development funds at the campus level, with a request that CoUL consider how best to address issues of equity in this area.

### **Position Paper No. 5, the Academic Librarian in the University of California**

One of the principle charges to the Committee on Professional Governance (CPG) was concluding the revision of Position Paper No. 5. CPG has worked to include the extensive feedback gathered at the 2018 Assembly at UCSF. PP #5 has been finalized, approved by the Executive Board and distributed to the Membership.

### **Advisory to Statewide Committees**

As LAUC President I attend the fall CoUL meeting via Zoom, and continue to attend meetings of the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC). UCOLASC continues to work on issues of open access, to stay apprised of new services from the California Digital Library (CDL), and to plan for the UC system's response to Elsevier negotiations and subsequent withdrawal.

### **LAUC Connect Program**

Certainly one value that LAUC brings to the membership is connecting professionals with one another to exchange innovation, experience and skills. The LAUC Connect Program got underway last year and since that time 33 librarians have expressed interest in connecting. The steering group has worked to establish connections between mentors and mentees, with 70% of respondents having made initial contact with their peers. The group continues to consider tools to aid in correspondence (slack, shared drives, etc.) as well as how best to make effective first contacts and generate feedback to grow the program in the future. Further participation and feedback is most welcome.

### **Travel Awardees**

This year we did not issue a call for poster presentations at the Assembly. However, I did want to continue to support attendance of new librarians at Assembly. The following individuals, all working less than two years at a UC, have been awarded travel grants covering their costs of attendance. Michelle Polchow, UCD, Megan G. Van Noord, UCD, Stephanie Labou, UCSD, Adam Clemons, UCB, Diana Ascher, UCLA, Tori Maches, UCSD, Elvia Arroyo-Ramirez, UCI

Respectfully Submitted,  
Roger Smith  
2018-2019 LAUC President