



OFFICE OF THE LAUC PRESIDENT

LAUC President's Report, 2020-2021

September 2, 2021

I am pleased to report on the activities of LAUC for the 2020/2021 term. This report addresses the major events and initiatives; more details can currently be found on the LAUC website, and full details of all activities have been recorded in the meeting minutes.

This year of near-universal remote work was filled with constant adjustments due to impacts of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. LAUC's statewide Executive Board, in coordination with its standing committees and ad hoc working groups, diligently persisted and addressed several matters of importance to our membership. I hope my colleagues are proud of what we have accomplished together.

LAUC Virtual Assembly

This year's virtual assembly was conducted during the week of May 3rd – 7th, and featured two plenary sessions that were also part of the AF Education Initiative. Guest speakers Alexis Logsdon and Danya Leebaw presented a keynote session derived from their published research examining Academic Librarians' lived experience with Academic Freedom. They then followed up in a separate plenary which presented structured member discussions around hypothetical scenarios of challenges to academic freedom within librarian work. The week also included the assembly business meeting and interactive sessions designed and presented by the R&PD and DEI committees. Attendance was strong overall, and feedback from members has been positive.

Standing Committees

Research and Professional Development Committee (R&PD)

This committee has worked hard under Rachel Green's keen leadership to purposefully deliver awards in support of research grant proposals. In a time when conference and assembly travel was severely restricted by the pandemic, this allowed for maximal use of available LAUC funding in support of member research. They were able to distribute all of the available funding, as well as additional Presidential funds that I granted upon request, in order to assist as many LAUC members as possible. They also conducted valuable survey work on the evolving professional development needs of LAUC members. The R&PD report provides more detail on these great efforts that will lead to new disciplinary understanding and fantastic publications and/or conference presentations in the near future.

Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Su Chen has led this committee through some important tasks and discussions. Highlights were planning and delivering a wonderful set of Lightning talks at the LAUC Assembly, featuring members from across the state discussing DEI-related developments in their divisions. DEI also conducted a separate event in July to present and discuss findings and recommendations resulting from the 2019 LAUC Membership Diversity Survey.



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Committee on Professional Governance

CPG chair Cherry Williams engaged this committee on some divisional bylaws updates, and the committee completed a report on an issue regarding language in the UCLA Call documentation, which was presented to and endorsed by the LAUC Executive Board.

Additional LAUC working groups

Communications Team

This ad hoc committee was formed in late 2020, pulling together several existing volunteer webmasters and social media managers within LAUC statewide. The team has spent this year shaping the scope and agenda of this work, building on their continuing roles while expanding contributions to the communication needs of LAUC statewide.

LAUC Academic Freedom Education Initiative taskforce

In November, the LAUC Executive board endorsed this proposed LAUC initiative, to provide active support of member education on the rights and responsibilities contained within the newly adopted [APM-011](#): *Academic Freedom, Protection of Professional Standards, and Responsibilities of Non-Faculty Academic Appointees*. A task force of several LAUC members planned and delivered three educational events, featuring UC Academic Senate leaders on this issue, experts in academic freedom concerns of academic librarians, and several LAUC members from across the state, all focused on the ideal and practical exercise of these rights and responsibilities. The Initiative website provides much more detail of this ongoing and developing effort. We hope to continue and build upon this work in the 2021-2022 term.

Nominations and Elections

Heather Smedberg led the effort to form the slate for this year's round of elections, and Kristen LaBonte conducted the elections smoothly.

Advisory Role to Statewide Committees

As LAUC President I attended the fall CoUL meeting via Zoom, and have attended all three meetings of the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC) for this academic year. UCOLASC contributed to the successful defense of an endangered budget for the California Digital Library (CDL), and spent much time examining the transformative agreements recently put into place with major publishers, particularly the new deal with Elsevier.

Respectfully Submitted,
Martin J. Brennan, UCLA Library
2020-2021 LAUC President