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Librarians Association of the University of California

2004-2005 President's Final Report

August 9, 2005

Dear LAUC Colleagues:

As my term as LAUC President comes to a close, I am writing to draw your attention to the many activities LAUC has been involved in during the past year. LAUC performs most of its ongoing work in close cooperation with the University Librarians, and LAUC members actively contribute to the formation of library plans and policies. However, the past academic year was marked by several new initiatives, which were well-received.

- The Fall Assembly included a high-profile program that was Web-cast, in two parts—featuring SOPAG and members of Academic Senate committees on library, both statewide and divisional. This event continues to attract an Internet audience via the Webcast.
- LAUC joined the faculty in commenting on the planning document “Systemwide Strategies for Libraries and Scholarly Information,” which was circulated by SLASIAC. LAUC’s response included feedback from each of the ten campuses. The Executive Board was especially pleased to offer LAUC’s input; our members have frequent contact with faculty and students, and are in a position to offer vital perspectives on long-term strategic plans for the libraries.
- In winter 2005, LAUC launched an Ad Hoc Committee of LAUC members, together with a library human resources administrator and a University Librarian, to study the evolving role of librarians as instructional providers. This Ad Hoc Committee was formed in consultation with the University Librarians. Its roots lay in certain organizational challenges that some of our members have faced in seeking to teach for-credit classes, but the charge was broadened to assess the overall teaching environments on the campuses and how those environments affect librarians’ teaching activities. This initiative comes at a time of increasing interest in librarian instructional services, both within the University and throughout the profession. In response, the Executive Board has seen the need for a deeper understanding of the challenges involved in formulating library-based instruction, and also how for-credit teaching by librarians is faring. Santa Barbara University Librarian Sarah Pritchard is actively involved with the working group, and we look forward to hearing from the Ad Hoc Committee in fall 2005.
- At the request of the Davis Division, the Executive Board charged another Ad Hoc Committee to explore whether LAUC might sponsor an electronic journal (e-journal) which would be of interest to the profession, both within and beyond the University. The Ad Hoc Committee’s findings were discussed at length during the Spring Assembly in Santa Barbara. While we are still deliberating on this matter, early indicators are that the membership feels that the market for such journals may be saturated.

- LAUC's Standing Committee on Professional Governance (CPG) conducted several surveys, including one that addressed the level of interaction between LAUC and the Academic Senate. They discovered considerable variety in the level of engagement. For example, at Irvine and Santa Cruz, LAUC members work closely with many Senate committees, while in other cases, LAUC members serve in ex officio capacities to the divisional committee on library. The Executive Board was very pleased and interested to learn about how closely the Irvine and Santa Cruz divisions of LAUC interact with the Senate. CPG, under Rob Melton's (SD) leadership, has done an outstanding job, and LAUC is most grateful to the committee.
- The Committee on Committee, Rules and Jurisdiction (CCRJ) continues to lead us in a dialogue about our Bylaws, which may lead to a vote next year. Chair Paul Weiss (SD) led a spirited discussion at the Spring Assembly, and we can look forward to another discussion in fall 2005. CCRJ members have worked hard, and the Board is very appreciative.
- All LAUC Standing Committees have performed a great deal of targeted work that has long-term value for the association. The Committee on Diversity presented the Spring Assembly with some very useful recommendations for campus divisions to consider. Library Plans and Policies delivered an outstanding White Paper that analyzed the pros and cons of standing committees versus ad hoc committees. The Committee on Research and Professional Development handled its usual grantmaking workload, and evaluated how to capture and retain any "deliverables" (such as journal articles, etc) that were produced with LAUC support. The Position Paper Review Task Force has completed its multi-year charge and will soon produce updated versions of the position papers that interact with the UC-AFT MOU.
- Finally, as part of an overall Web redesign, LAUC launched a new Web feature for LAUC members and guests to publish opinion pieces on the state of the libraries, the profession, and the issues facing the University. This feature has been highly successful, generating several hundreds and even thousands of Web downloads. LAUC will continue to promote this feature in the coming year.

Building Upon Our Core Charge

All of these activities build upon our core charge to advise the University Librarians, as they meet the challenge of offering library services to the world's leading public University. The greater library community within the University has been uniformly supportive to LAUC in response to our actions, and this has been most gratifying for me and the Executive Board.

At our Spring Assembly in Santa Barbara, University Librarian Sarah Pritchard gave welcoming remarks to the gathering. In these remarks, UL Pritchard made the observation that during the current, dynamic conditions that face libraries, the University Librarians look to LAUC's membership as key partners. These remarks were highly appreciated by LAUC, as we believe that our advisory role within the University has gained importance in recent years. Indeed, LAUC members now have more opportunities than ever before to work directly with the University Librarians' advisory community, as well as with the California Digital Library and the Office of Systemwide Library Planning.

"Continuous Planning" –and A Continued Focus on Users

As the University moves forward, practicing "continuous planning" to meet the challenges of library administration, LAUC will do all within its ability to be of assistance. As academic employees whose work is closely linked with the teaching and research goals of the University, LAUC members are particularly committed to offering a proactive, advisory stance. Because of the heightened need for advice and input, it has been particularly rewarding for me to serve as President of LAUC. Moreover, it's important to note that as the University has adopted continuous planning, we have continued to fulfill our standing advisory charges, addressing many of the "real world" issues facing us in our everyday jobs.

As digital media continue to change professional practice, our user-centric values have been honed, strengthened and reaffirmed. The University needs us more than ever before, and we have shown ourselves equal to the

challenge. The Executive Board, working in unanimity throughout the year, has led LAUC in new directions, while preserving all of the most important roles we play. It's been gratifying to see the general uptick in interest among LAUC members during the past academic year.

Many thanks are due, more than can be made via email. But I do wish to express my thanks to Past President Linda Kennedy for her many contributions; to Tammie Dearie (SD), our past SOPAG representative, to Ann Jensen (B), our outgoing SLASIAC representative, and to our outstanding Webmaster Ilan Eyman (B); also, to Paul Weiss (SD), our pioneering Parliamentarian; and most of all to incoming President Jenny Reiswig (SD). The 2005-2006 Executive Board will offer outstanding leadership for us, so I can leave office knowing that we are in excellent hands.

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