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## Report of the President and Executive Board

May 2, 2005

Presented by

Terence K. Huwe, 2004-2005 President

### **Association Activities: The Big Picture**

The 2004-2005 academic year has been productive for LAUC. The Executive Board took initiative on several fronts, as I outline below in detail. Yet another, equally significant source of initiative originated with LAUC divisions at the campus level. The Davis Division asked the Board to investigate the viability of establishing an open access, peer-reviewed electronic journal, which was a welcome concept. Events at UC San Diego triggered a broad discussion of the changing instructional roles librarians now play within the University, which was opened by Past President Kari Lucas (SD). It is also noteworthy that the Irvine Division initiated a public outreach effort known as “Librarians@UCI” –which serves both as a potential recruiting tool and also as a means of educating the campus community about our work and our profession.

Each of these events, taken together with the Executive Board’s actions, suggest to me that LAUC has increased its impact on our day-to-day working lives and is keeping pace with the dynamic changes that now characterize academic life at the University of California. Much of the credit for this focus on initiative belongs to the Executive Board members, who have enjoyed a strong esprit de corps and have often found themselves voting unanimously on many matters. LAUC also wishes to thank the University Librarians for their collegial support throughout the year, Gary Lawrence at the Office of Systemwide Library Planning, and the staff at the California Digital Library.

Highlights of LAUC’s 2004-2005 activities follow below.

### **SLASIAC’s “Strategic Directions for Libraries and Scholarly Information”**

SLASIAC’s important planning document received a full and serious debate among LAUC members, with each division producing thoughtful remarks that should stimulate more discussion in the coming years. LAUC’s overall response to the SLASIAC document was supportive. One recurring theme in the discussion was that the report focused on “libraries” and not “librarians.” It is significant that librarians with the University are in very close contact with each other—essentially our “community of practice” is already statewide, and it is robust and effective. The culture of collaboration that we have already formed seems very much in line with the digital future the University is carving out, and may even be helpful to others within the University as a model for effective collaboration. Furthermore, it is significant that even as libraries embrace a digital future, the research process remains fundamentally linked to human interaction—whether online or in our many richly populated physical spaces. All of these points were raised by LAUC members (and separately by the faculty), and we can look

forward to much more dialogue as SLASIAC engages in its work of continuous strategic planning.

## **Two New Ad Hoc Committees**

The Board charged two Ad Hoc Committees to address two important issues. The Ad Hoc Committee on Open Access, Electronic Journal Feasibility finished its work on April 30, 2005, and the Spring Assembly Delegates will discuss its findings later this year. A special note of thank go to Dan Goldstein (D), Chair of the committee, and also to Andrea Duda (SB), who was instrumental in getting the effort started.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Librarian Instructional Roles, Chaired by Kari Lucas (SD) has a formidable charge that will surely yield some very interesting recommendations, not only for LAUC but perhaps for the University Librarians. LAUC is especially appreciative that UCSB University Librarian Sarah Pritchard is working with the committee alongside UCLA Library Human Resources Director Pat Hawthorne, and LAUC Past President Esther Grassian (LA). This working group will explore what challenges librarians face as they engage in instruction: as part of various campus organizational cultures, within the context of the Academic Personnel Manual, and in relation to the faculty. The Committee will make its report at the Fall 2005 Assembly, which will be held at UCSC.

## **LAUC Assembly Delegates: Advance Digital Conversations**

Parliamentarian Paul Weiss (SD) has rightly interpreted the Bylaws as defining the “Assembly” as a body of delegates who are free to interact on an ongoing basis—not just on the day of the Assembly. With that in mind, the Assembly Delegates have joined the Board in an advance, digital conversation of the key issues we will discuss at the LAUC Spring Assembly. To date, the Delegates have discussed the final recommendations of the Position Paper Review Task Force, with the goal of making our in-person time more focused and productive. In May 2005, the Delegates will have the opportunity to take up the report of the Committee on Committees, Rules, and Jurisdiction, which I will cover below. This enhancement of the Delegates’ ability to engage in the Association’s business has been, in my opinion, very advantageous.

## **The LAUC Web**

The LAUC Web, under the management of Ilan Eyman (B) has matured into a world-class resource for information professionals, and is heavily linked to all other UC Web sites having to do with the University Libraries. Our yearlong experiment with posting the opinions of members and colleagues has been interesting, even challenging as some of the issues that were raised go to the heart of professional practice in a changing world. The Executive Board will take up the matter of whether to continue this feature at its turnover meeting in August 2005.

## **Committee Activity Highlights**

*Committee on Committees, Rules and Jurisdiction (CCRJ).* CCRJ received an ambitious charge this year. Chair Paul Weiss (SD) is leading the group in a review our Bylaws and to draft a new edition of them for general review and discussion. This process is sure to be dynamic and spirited, as our bylaws define who we are and what we profess to do. Far from being “dull”, the bylaws revision offers us an opportunity to think about how LAUC conducts its business at the most pragmatic levels, and may make it possible for us to expedite our routine affairs and emphasize the most strategic activities we engage in—namely, our advisory role to the University. CCRJ’s report was finished in early May, allowing the Delegates and divisions to begin discussing the draft. At the Spring Assembly, this discussion can go further. Given the short amount of time between the circulation of the report and the Assembly, it is highly likely the draft will be referred back to CCRJ, with substantive comments that will greatly assist the committee. It also important to point out that if LAUC chooses to vote on a bylaws change at the proper time, it will be necessary to conduct that vote as a straight “up or down” vote, versus approving the bylaws article by article. This is necessary because the new bylaws will differ substantially in format from our existing bylaws, making an article-by-article vote awkward at best.

*Committee on Professional Governance (CPG)*. CPG has been very active this year. Chair Rob Melton (SD) led the committee in its routine charges (reviewing divisional peer review procedures) but also received targeted additional charges, including a request to survey campus emeritus practices for librarians. CPG reviewed the effectiveness of the Assistant and Associate ranks of the Librarian Series, which have received less attention than the Full rank and the Distinguished Step in recent times. The report is interesting and sets the stage for further dialogue. CPG also conducted a survey of how LAUC divisions interact with the Academic Senate at each campus. This is a very intriguing document, as it illustrates that some divisions enjoy extensive ties with the Senate, while other divisions have less interaction. This suggests to me that LAUC may be able to take a much more active role in networking with the Senate, and that this action would both benefit the library profession, and be of support to the University Librarians.

*Committee on Library Plans and Policies (LPP)*. LPP was charged to review its mission and provide an assessment of the usefulness of ad hoc committees as an alternative for evaluating the plans, policies and strategies that the University engages in with respect to the libraries. Their report will set the stage for an ongoing discussion of the role of LPP, and whether it should be strengthened or perhaps “morphed” into a different kind of working group.

*Committee on Research and Professional Development (R&PD)*. Vice President Jenny Reisswig’s (SD) committee reviewed grant proposals and conducted a long-overdue survey of “deliverables” that have been generated by grant recipients. They also have been exploring whether the California Digital Library’s eScholarship Repository would offer a good home for those deliverables.

### **New Position Papers: Further Discussion**

Earlier this year, I called for expressions of interest for persons interested in authoring two new position papers, one on copyright and fair use, and another on privacy issues. While I did receive expressions of interest, it also became clear that LAUC needs to coordinate its statements of position with other advisory groups that address these issues. With that in mind, the Executive Board will discuss how to proceed with this process at its June 3, 2005 meeting.

### **In Summary and In Appreciation**

The 2004-2005 academic year has been a productive one for LAUC, and many people deserve our recognition and appreciation. First, the Executive Board has been a very cohesive and creative group. Second, our standing committee members have all applied themselves creatively and diligently, and this is reflected in the high quality of their work. Third, many LAUC members have stepped forward to serve on Ad Hoc Committees and within the advisory structure of the University Librarians. My special thanks go to Kari Lucas, Dan Goldstein, Andrea Duda, Susana Hinojosa, Sarah McDaniel, Patrick Dawson and Ann Jensen for their contributions, along with all of the other members who have served in so many capacities this year. Also, our outgoing statewide reps—Jain Fletcher (LA), Kerry Scott (SC), and again Susana (B) and Ann (B)—deserve a note of appreciation.

Finally, a very special thank you goes to Linda Kennedy, our Past President, and to Jenny Reisswig, our Vice President, for their exceptional vision and vital assistance. I look forward to the 2005-2006 and Jenny’s leadership.

Send comments regarding this site to [Frank Lester](#), LAUC Web Manager. Last updated: 03/12/2013