



OFFICE OF THE LAUC PRESIDENT

LAUC President's Report—Spring 2015

This year began with a considerable agenda to continue a number of long-term projects begun by President Nick Robinson. In addition as a late development the previous Spring, the Executive Officers found that the Executive Board was forced into a review of membership. This was initiated by a legal challenge by LAUC-D, questioning the membership of library administrators who had been reclassified out of AUL title codes into a non-academic director series. Close analysis of the LAUC Bylaws revealed that the language was indeterminate with respect to this question. A survey of the divisions found that similar reclassifications had been underway in over half of the LAUC divisions for up to 15 years with no understanding of their implications. To settle these questions and a number of related concerns about LAUC membership, a year-long review of the Bylaws was undertaken with the purpose of settling the issue by voting on possible revisions in the annual election in June. In addition, the Executive Board faced the task of updating the LAUC position papers, due for update every five years, which had not been updated for at least 12 years. The membership issue, as the most fundamental, came to dominate the agenda although an effort was made to pursue everything and to respect relationships between them.

Ongoing Projects

The Web Ad Hoc Committee, Chaired by LAUC Webmaster Julie Lefevre, continued the massive and complex work of developing a new website begun the previous year. This work was divided into six phases, three of which were done in cooperation with the Executive Board and the Diversity Committee which provided feedback. Simultaneously, the Diversity Committee continued work on the "Meet the Members" project designed to provide profiles on members from various campuses in time for the rollout of the new site. This opening scheduled for the Spring was delayed due to a variety of circumstances and at this writing is slated for late Spring 2015.

A second ongoing project was to expand upon LAUC contacts with the new University of California Library Advisory Structure (UCLAS) to develop LAUC's systemwide advisory role. This was done through monthly reports by LAUC's systemwide representatives to various committees. Susan Koskinen (UCB) to SLASIAC; Diane Gurman (UCLA) to SAG 1; Susan Perry (UCSC) to SAG 2; and Angela Riggio (UCLA) to SAG 3. In addition, the LAUC President and Vice-President continued to work with the Coordinating Committee of UCLAS to improve communication between UCLAS and the LAUC membership. As a result of conference calls and emails it was agreed that the LAUC Exec Board would help to formulate topics for a series of webinars on topics of systemwide interest. The first of these was held on October 30, 2014 and featured Lorelei Tanji, Convener of the Council of University Librarians (CoUL), describing CoUL's highest priorities for the year.

As part of systemwide advice, LAUC was asked to provide feedback on a number of systemwide proposals. These included a proposal to reorganize systemwide bibliography groups into subject-based categories, feedback on a draft of the Academic Personnel Manual (APM), and a response to the

University's Online Access Policy. For each, response was gathered from the membership and compiled into a report that was submitted to the requesting unit. The exception was feedback on the APM which was restricted to the Executive Board but which included the advice of subject experts from LAUC-D and LAUC-LA. The LAUC President also attended quarterly meetings of the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC) most of which focused on the progress of the University's Open Access Policy.

Another important initiative was to examine the outcome of changes to policies for awarding research and development funding. The Board looked to see the effects of introducing two calls for funding during the year instead of one only in the Spring. And the Board looked to see if the low number of grant requests from the previous year would increase. Under the leadership of Vice-President Diane Mizrachi, the committee saw great success on both counts with a larger number of applications that exceeded the available funding. This measure indicates that the professional activity of LAUC is alive and well.

Membership

The membership issue and the Position Papers were tied together in their subject matter and the challenge as how to manage them both in the limited time available. The decision was made to extract Position Paper 5 on "The Librarian as Academic" to use as a basis for discussion on membership while postponing the others until after the resolution of the membership issue in the Spring. Examination of Position Paper 5 indicated that it effectively distinguished librarianship from staff activities but did not distinguish the work of librarians from that of other professionals working in the field. A new definition was proposed that case librarianship as one of broad expertise over both public and technical services anchored in professional training and longstanding professional practices. This discussion was circulated to the membership and provided the basis for a discussion with CoUL on the future of the library profession at the Annual Assembly.

With the aid of this discussion, the membership issue was framed as a rift between the concept of librarian and librarianship with librarians being reduced to a subsection of the field. Changes to the membership constituted one of several means explored to bring the meanings of "librarian" and "librarianship" into an improved relationship. The Committee on Professional Governance (CPG) was charged with proposing revisions to the Bylaws. The CPG issued draft recommendations in February that were reviewed by the membership for a month. Feedback was considered through March to produce final revisions that are currently under consideration by the Assembly.

Communication

The Executive Board made a particular effort to improve communication with the LAUC divisions for its many initiatives. This came under the concept of "Closing the Circle of Communication." The membership was kept informed by email of plans, reasons, and outcomes. Inquiries were responded to as rapidly and in as much detail as was feasible. In addition, the Board initiated a twice-yearly newsletter to inform the membership about statewide activities. The first newsletter was issued in December 2014 with the editorial skills of Carla Arbagey (UCR) and the helpful advice of I-Wei Wang (UCB).