



May 26th, 2021

2020-2021 LAUC President's Midyear Report

I am pleased to report on the activities of LAUC for the first half of the 2020/2021 term. This midyear report will be brief and is not meant to be comprehensive. While pointing to LAUC's significant and varied efforts to date, expanded details can be found within standing committee reports and executive board minutes. Further information and analysis, along with recommendations derived from the experiences of this challenging year, will be added to an enhanced and final report which I will present at the end of my term in September.

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.

Standing Committees

Research and Professional Development Committee (R&PD)

This committee has worked hard under Rachel Green's keen leadership to purposefully deliver expanded awards in support of research grant proposals. In a time when conference and assembly travel was severely restricted by the pandemic, this redirection allowed for maximal use of available LAUC funding in support of member research. 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 lead this committee through some important tasks and discussions. A highlight was the 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.

Committee on Professional Governance

CPG chair Cherry Williams engaged this committee on some divisional bylaws updates, and the committee has completed a report on an issue regarding language in the UCLA Call documentation, which will be presented to the Executive Board at our next meeting.

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 is forming 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*. These virtual efforts are planned and delivered by a task force of several LAUC members, and has already presented 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. By September, the task force members below will also be forming a set of recommendations for members, divisions, and future LAUC administrations to carry this work forward.

LAUC Virtual Assembly

This year's virtual assembly featured fantastic events including interactive sessions designed and presented by the R&PD and DEI committees, and two plenary sessions that were also part of the AF Education Initiative. Attendance was strong and feedback from members has been positive – and discussions from the assembly have energized member efforts as we head into the home stretch of this LAUC year.

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