



## OFFICE OF THE LAUC PRESIDENT

March 28, 2019

### **2019 LAUC Assembly President's Report**

I am pleased to report on the activities of LAUC for the first half of the 2018/2019 term. This has been a busy year so far with a number of initiatives aimed at supporting UC librarians. I believe that this year the LAUC executive board will identify as many future action items as it able to address directly during the year. However, I am confident that we will emerge with a renewed sense of purpose, value and commitment. Traditionally, the LAUC President and President Elect meet with the Council of University Librarians (CoUL) once, in the beginning of the year. However, given the nature of our work this year I will be requesting a second meeting to discuss the topics below, in particular action items and resource requests that CoUL is in a position to support.

#### **Academic Freedom**

An important issue facing UC Librarians this year is application of academic freedom to the work we are engaged in as non-faculty academic appointees. In January, I was invited to represent LAUC on the *Working Group on privileges, protections, obligations, and responsibilities of non-faculty academic appointees*. This group was co-chaired by George Blumenthal, Chancellor UC Santa Cruz and Robert May, Chair Academic Council. The working group engaged our charge aggressively and I am pleased to report has delivered recommendations to Provost Michael Brown in the past week. Our process included consultations with LAUC exec board as well as with a group of represented librarians. The committee's recommendations include the establishment of a new APM section (APM-011) that articulates the extension of academic freedom protections to librarians (and other non-faculty academic appointees) when they are engaged in teaching and research, as well as analogous protections when engaged in other professional work in support of the University's mission (collection development, for example). The committee developed recommended adjudication procedures referencing those articulated in APM-010 and APM-140. In addition, an FAQ was submitted explaining key aspects of our process. The proposed documents go into a formal review period. When I hear more about the outcome I will communicate with the membership. In support of this issue, the LAUC exec board developed and distributed [a statement in support of academic freedom for librarians](#).

#### **Value of LAUC / Barriers to Engagement**

The past few years have seen challenges in developing a full slate of nominees for LAUC statewide and local elections, as well as complete rosters for local and statewide committees. The LAUC statewide exec board has engaged the process of assessing how well LAUC communicates its value / work, as well what barriers exist for UC librarians in engaging LAUC positions. To this end, campus chapters held focused discussions on the topic. Notes were submitted to the exec board and the afternoon of the Assembly will be devoted to a "workshop" aimed at distilling recommendations and action items.

#### **Professional Development Funds**

This has been a very busy year for the Research and Professional Development Committee (R&PD) and their management of grant applications. The spring call for applications is noteworthy for far exceeding

available funds to cover approved applications. I have been working with the R&PD Chair to determine a course of action that makes good use of LAUC Presidential Funds to bolster the available resources to fund these requests. A formal request is being reviewed by the UCOP fund manager. In addition, I plan to report to CoUL that professional engagement is strong in the UC Libraries, and that serious consideration needs to be given to increasing allocations supporting professional work at the campus level.

### **Position Paper No. 5, the Academic Librarian in the University of California**

One of the principle charges to the Committee on Professional Governance (CPG) was concluding the revision of Position Paper No. 5. CPG has worked to include the extensive feedback gathered at the 2018 Assembly at UCSF. They have delivered the revision along with a proposed timeline for review and approval. This timeline will be discussed at the 2019 Assembly with subsequent review and approval to occur before the end of the 2018/2019 LAUC year.

### **Advisory to Statewide Committees**

As LAUC President I attend the fall CoUL meeting via Zoom, and continue to attend meetings of the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC). UCOLASC continues to work on issues of open access, to stay apprised of new services from the California Digital Library (CDL), and to plan for the UC system's response to Elsevier negotiations and subsequent withdrawal.

### **LAUC Connect Program**

Certainly one value that LAUC brings to the membership is connecting professionals with one another to exchange innovation, experience and skills. The LAUC Connect Program got underway last year and since that time 33 librarians have expressed interest in connecting. The steering group has worked to establish connections between mentors and mentees, with 70% of respondents having made initial contact with their peers. The group continues to consider tools to aid in correspondence (slack, shared drives, etc.) as well as how best to make effective first contacts and generate feedback to grow the program in the future. Further participation and feedback is most welcome.

### **Travel Awardees**

This year we did not issue a call for poster presentations at the Assembly. However, I did want to continue to support attendance of new librarians at Assembly. The following individuals, all working less than two years at a UC, have been awarded travel grants covering their costs of attendance.

Michelle Polchow, UCD  
Megan G. Van Noord, UCD  
Stephanie Labou, UCSD  
Adam Clemons, UCB  
Diana Ascher, UCLA  
Tori Maches, UCSD  
Elvia Arroyo-Ramirez, UCI

Respectfully Submitted,  
Roger Smith  
2018-2019 LAUC President