



September 1, 2010

Dear Members of LAUC,

As LAUC President for 2010/2011, I am honored to have this opportunity to serve the membership and the University of California. The theme for this year is "LAUC: The Next Generation". We librarians need to know who we are now and what we think we should be doing in order to recruit and retain the next generation of UC librarians.

This year LAUC will continue to focus on the information gathered by the Committee on Professional Governance (CPG) under the leadership of Matthew Conner (D). The task of this year's CPG, chaired by Heidi Hutchinson (R), is to analyze the information gathered and submit to LAUC a report on the future of UC librarianship. This report will provide recommendations on what and how we as librarians will need to do to reaffirm and redefine librarianship at the University of California.

In addition, the Committee on Diversity, chaired by Gayatri Singh (SD), will be charged with gathering and compiling statistical information regarding the current state of diversity among UC librarians including such differences such as rank/step, race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, language, educational attainment, abilities/disabilities, years of service, etc. and compare them to local, state, and national figures. This information will help LAUC and the University make strategic decisions with respect to recruitment and retention of UC librarians.

Currently more and more UC librarians are standing up and voicing their individual and collective voices advocating for libraries.

As stated in LAUC Position Paper No.5:

"Librarians at the University of California have a collective responsibility through the Librarians Association of the University of California (LAUC), to advise University officials on professional and governance matters of concern to all librarians, including operations and policies of the libraries, professional standards, rights, privileges, and obligations of members of the librarian series of the University, planning, evaluation, and implementation of programs, services, or technological changes in the libraries of the University. "

In the statement above, the word most LAUC members, including myself, have long focused on is "advise". However, I would argue that today "responsibility" is just as important. We librarians are obligated to speak up and justify that what we do is important to the University and to the people of California. We cannot and should not rest on past accomplishments. We have been and shall remain an integral part of the research and teaching mission of the University. Furthermore, it is our responsibility to help shape the future of the University with progressive ideas on developing our collections and resources to innovative methods of access and discovery.

For over 40 years, the Librarians Association of the University of California has provided leadership and advice to the system-wide, campus and library administrations on the best course for the University's libraries. It is the responsibility of the next generation of LAUC members to ensure LAUC and the University's libraries remain respected and relevant for the next 40 years as the University of California continues to grow and evolve.

Michael M. Yonezawa, President