

LAUC President's Report
Spring 2007

I am pleased to share with you this update on LAUC initiatives for 2006-2007.

FALL ASSEMBLY FOLLOW UP

My March 2007 President's message provided lengthy summaries of the many issues identified and discussed at the Fall Assembly in response to "The University of California Libraries as a Destination Place". These summaries identified positive and the negative issues related to the recruitment and retention of librarians at the University of California. I have taken the following steps to address some of these issues:

1. I charged the LAUC Committee on Professional Governance (PG) with gathering information that I hope will help support discussion regarding recruitment and retention roadblocks amongst the University Librarians, and between LAUC and the University Librarians. Please see the PG Spring Assembly report and accompanying documents for their responses to two of my information requests.

2. I charged the LAUC Committee on Diversity with:

"...review(ing) the website and determine how best to make it a more useful tool for highlighting, supporting and helping expand diversity in the UC libraries."

"...with developing content/component checklists for information kits that could be used as part of recruitment efforts, during the interview process for prospective UC librarians and in orientation programs for new UC librarians. These checklists are intended to assist the local divisions in creating kits that are relatively consistent across the campuses, but also reflect the individual culture and strengths of each campus."

"Develop(ing) a statement affirming LAUC's commitment to and support of a more diverse work force in the UC libraries that would appropriately be part of the redesigned Diversity Committee website and the recruitment and orientation information toolkits.

Despite the lateness of my charge, the committee has already made progress in assessing the Diversity web site and updating it. They will soon begin work on the information kit checklists and have started looking at similar statements to the one they are charged with developing.

3. I determined that we should have a program at the Spring Assembly to address current LAUC mentoring programs and possible future directions for the campuses which don't yet have programs.

4. At the request of LAUC Division Chairs, I have set aside time at the Executive Board meeting for a discussion of librarian salary issues. I hope that this discussion will generate ideas that LAUC can share with the University Librarians to inform their thinking and discussions.

MEETING WITH THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS

Bob Heyer-Gray and I met with the University Librarians on November 29th. During that meeting the University Librarians stressed that the most appropriate channel for LAUC response to reports and/or initiatives coming out of the advisory groups is through our LAUC representatives. In support of this I charged the LAUC Library Plans and Policies Committee with serving as a resource for the LAUC representatives to assist them, as needed, in quickly gathering LAUC input on issues, plans and policies that are being investigated and discussed. I also asked two members of the current Executive

Board to create an official “job description” for LAUC representatives to the advisory committees. This document would clarify their role for the benefit of the LAUC membership, the representatives themselves, advisory committee chairs, the University Librarians and UCOP. I hope to have the completed document posted on the LAUC web site by the end of summer.

After the November meeting, Tom Leonard, Convener of the UL Group, let me know that at their January meeting the ULs had noted that “Positive aspects of working in the UC libraries” suggests to us the intangibles that go into making a successful career. We understand that at the at the UC Davis assembly, LAUC made progress in articulating these features of our common culture and that you had some ideas to better communicate what the campuses offer now. We also believe you have a sense of what will be vital for the future career path.. . . I invite you now to furnish a statement, based on the work you began at Davis.” I have not written such a statement. Rather, I chose to issue the charge to the Diversity Committee, see above, that I believe will result in a more useful product.

SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

My fall 2006 report included the following statement: “As LAUC President, I serve as a consultant to UCOL (University Committee on the Library). As they go forward with the SCSC (Special Committee on Scholarly Communication) white papers, I will be looking for opportunities for LAUC to be part of the cooperative effort between UCOL, SCO (Scholarly Communications Officers Group) and the Office of Scholarly Communication to further address these issues within the University of California.” To this end, I planned the Spring Assembly afternoon program to provide what I hope will be a useful overview of UC scholarly communication issues and initiatives.

LAUC BYLAWS

This year the Committee on Committees, Rules and Jurisdiction was charged with reviewing the current LAUC Bylaws, identifying the procedural information contained within them, writing a set of standing rules to encompass that information, restructuring the remaining portions of the bylaws and aligning the new standing rules with the relevant bylaws; developing a standing rule that states the procedures for electronic confirmation of Assembly minutes; assessing the continuing viability of the currently prescribed standing committees and the possibility of relying more heavily on ad hoc committees and division committee structures for carrying out LAUC business. As you can see from their report and accompanying documents, the Committee has done an excellent job. We will discuss these documents and their recommendations at the Spring Assembly.

SPRING ASSEMBLY

The Spring Assembly will be held at UC San Diego on Wednesday, May 30, 2007. In April I issued a call for applicants for LAUC Assembly Travel Grants. These grants are designed to encourage additional LAUC members to attend the Assembly in order to develop a better understanding of LAUC and its work. I very pleased that I was able to provide grants to all of the librarians that applied for them. They are: Angela Boyd, UCSB; Chimene Tucker, UCSB; Jane Carpenter, UCLA; Josh Schneider, UCSB; Lisa Spagnolo, UCD. As always, the Assembly is open to all LAUC members, not just the Executive Board, Delegates and invited guest. I am pleased to report that an additional thirty five to forty LAUC members have registered to attend.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

The 2006-2007 LAUC Statewide Nominating Committee (Co-Chair Esther Grassian, UCLA; Co-Chair Terry Huwe, UCB, Jenny Reiswig, UCSD; and Ken Lyons, UCSC) did a wonderful job of securing a great slate of nominees for statewide LAUC office. The nominees are:

Vice President/President-Elect – Sam Dunlap, UCSD and Michael Yonezawa, UCR

Secretary – Greg Careaga, UCSC and Orchid Mazurkiwicz, UCLA

Be sure to vote when you receive the statewide ballot from your division election committee.

This fall two LAUC representatives to University Librarian advisory committees completed will complete their terms of service. This opens up a valuable opportunity for LAUC members to apply to serve LAUC on the Collection Development Council (CDC) and the Heads of Public Services Group (HOPS). A call for candidates for these two positions was sent out for distribution to the membership. It will also be posted on the LAUC website under “From the President” on the main page. I hope you will consider applying. The deadline is Friday, June 28th. I am pleased to report that as of May 25th I had already received one application for the HOPS position.

In December, Bob and I met with the LAUC website administrator, Frank Lester (UCB), to discuss how to update and further develop the website. Based on our discussion Frank drafted a priorities document. He will begin by focusing on creating an archive page on the website where links to older materials can be moved. This will make recent information/documents more visible. He will also redo the committee lists to make them more useful and then work on redoing additional pages to make them more useful.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lise Snyder

LAUC President 2006-07