

COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

Annual Report 2014-15

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

The Committee on the Library and Scholarly Communication (COLASC) worked throughout 2014-15 to understand the rapidly evolving climate for our library. The committee explored a variety of ways to adapt library services to the changing academic environment. COLASC discussed the library's budget and whether it should request to receive a share of Indirect Cost Recovery funds, the implementation of the Open Access Policy and its extension to the broader campus community.

Library Budget

The committee discussed the state of the library budget, which is split between operations (which includes staffing) and collections. Funding for both of these categories is extremely low: the library is still being run at staffing levels greatly reduced by budget cuts, and extremely small compared to other UC campuses, and its collection budget is only about 10% greater than what is required to fund its subscriptions through the California Digital Library (CDL). The committee notes some encouraging signs for the library as well: the library received an endowed chair in 2014-15, for example. The committee also notes that discussions are continuing about funding the library through the start-up funds of new faculty members.

COLASC still holds, however, that the best way to fund the library collections is via a permanent allocation from the overhead funds that are generated from campus research grants. This would directly tie the amount to the number of students served to the research produced. Furthermore, given that the Library and its collection directly supports the research mission of the campus, it would be logical to fund the library with the overhead funds generated by research grants. Many other UCs support the library via overhead funds, and it would be wise for UCSC to give this proposal greater consideration.

The committee looks forward to continued discussion of these issues in 2015-16.

Open Access

On July 24, 2013, Academic Council voted to approve the UC Open Access Policy that was discussed at length by COLASC in 2012-13. This policy requires Senate faculty to upload their scholarly articles to an open access database, unless they opt out of doing so. COLASC recognizes that implementing this policy poses a large challenge: the campus must ensure that this initiative is embraced by faculty members in order for the policy to be effective. To this end, committee members discussed the importance of publicizing the policy widely, including at department meetings in the following year.

The committee also discussed the various methods of populating eScholarship with research articles. Faculty members can upload their materials manually through eScholarship, email their papers to library staff who will upload the papers, or make use of an automatic "harvester" that will upload papers. Committee members were concerned that this automatic harvester could result

in extra work for faculty to ensure that the results it produces are reliable, but will continue working with the library as it introduces these services.

Committee members noted that some confusion about the implementation of this policy remains. For example, members were unsure which versions of their articles should be submitted, what kinds of research activities constitute a “scholarly article,” and whether an article should be uploaded to the open access database if it embeds other copyrighted material. The committee looks forward to continuing these discussions and helping educate the campus community about this policy.

Other COLASC Business

COLASC laid the groundwork to hold an online forum on copyright and intellectual property. The committee hopes that this event will be held early in the next academic year.

COLASC also discussed and commented on the Senate Executive Committee’s Graduate Growth Principles, surveys of library use distributed to faculty and to undergraduate students, and the draft Accessible Technology Implementation Plan.

Respectfully submitted;

COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

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