

Approved

Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

Committee on the Library

2021-2022 Annual Report

In fulfilling its charge as established in the Bylaws of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate, the Library Committee carried out the following activities. The chair of the Library Committee during the 2021-22 academic year was Professor Daniel F. Melia.

Chair's Summary:

The explicit aims of the Library Committee in 2021-22 were:

1. Establishing a multi-year vision for the Library, taking account of the changing landscape of services it is expected to provide.
2. Ensuring that the Library has adequate space, resources and personnel to remain one of the pre-eminent libraries in the world.

The September meeting was held in person with some members joining via Zoom. Owing to Covid-19 restrictions, all subsequent meetings were held remotely via Zoom.

The year began with the proposed library budget already showing strain. The budget could only be balanced by exhausting the last of the monetary reserves. The committee expressed concern about closures of smaller libraries, but even more about reduction in acquisitions. In October, LIBR created a subcommittee to evaluate developments since the 2013 report on The Future of the Library, chaired by Professor Van Houweling and including Professor Sposito, both of whom had served on the 2013 task force.

The November meeting concerned itself with the Library's response to the student demonstration regarding the exhibit of library holdings regarding the Philippines. The exhibit reflected the history of the library's holdings in Asian areas which unsurprisingly reflected the colonialist views of many early twentieth century politicians and academics. The Library intends to provide more context in future exhibits (which will be less numerous owing to budget cuts.) The committee also advised the Library on revised advertising for the position of Director of the Bancroft Library/Associate Librarian for Special Collections. The committee urged additional efforts to recruit a well-qualified scholar, though acknowledging that that might be a difficult task.

There were continuing discussions of consolidation of specialty libraries and the damage to research and teaching resulting from the reduction in resources for each of the library's main tasks: Archiving, Acquisition, and Access. These concerns were echoed by the report of the subcommittee on the Future of the Library, which urged direct contact with higher administrators. The committee viewed the steady reduction in the library's budget as essential business for the committee in the coming year.

I. FINISHED BUSINESS

A. Completed with Written Comment

1. Comments on the proposed closure of the Optometry Library
Comments forwarded to Division Chair Professor Ronald Cohen, 9 February 2022.
2. Committee's response to Chair Cohen's request for Risk Assessment priorities. *11 February 2022.*
3. Resolution in support of UCOLASC motion to urge UCOP to include permanent funding for the California Digital Library in its budget. *Forwarded to Chair Cohen, 11 May 2022.*
4. Resolution on restoration of Library budget. *Sent to Chair Cohen, 13 May 2022.*

B. Completed without Written Comment

1. Review of progress, or lack thereof, in fulfilling aims of 2013 report on the Future of the Library.
2. Advice to Library regarding student protest concerning exhibit of Asian materials, particularly regarding the Philippines.
3. Advice to Library respecting the search for a new Associate University Librarian and Director of the Bancroft Library.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

III. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

Members of the Library Committee undertook the following service on behalf of the committee:

Professor Christine Rosen, representative to UCOLASC, Fall Term. Professor Ellen Simms, representative to UCOLASC, Spring Term.

Subcommittee on Future of the Library chaired by Professor Molly Van Houweling.

Chair Melia served as representative to CAPRA and the Library Board.