

May 1, 2015

TO: Executive Board, Academic Senate

FR: Oliver Mayer, Chair of the USC Library Committee, Gisele Ragusa, Co-Chair USC Library Committee

Dear Senate Executive Board Members,

This brief report involves the Academic Senate Library Committee's work over the course of academic year 2014-15. It will include issues addressed by the committee and any resulting actions; resolutions, programs and policies acted upon; and recommendations for the committee in calendar year 2015-16.

This year's committee consisted of Oliver Mayer, School of Dramatic Arts, Co-Chair Gisele Ragusa (Viterbi School Engineering), Steve Chen (School of Pharmacy), Sol Golomb (Viterbi School of Engineering), Tom Goodnight (Annenberg School of Communication), Henry Kim (Keck School of Medicine), Leonette Williams (Gould School of Law), Marion Philadelphia (Marshall School of Business), Lisa Sylvester (Thornton School of Music), Brett Sheehan (Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences), and Martha Lyon-Levine (School Social Work). Dean of USC Libraries Catherine Quinlan attended each of our three meetings, and took copious notes. It was our honors to chair.

The first meeting was held on October 23, 2014 at the Shoah Foundation Conference Room at Leavey. We set the tone for the year by formulating the following themes for the accomplishing the year's work: USC library partnerships; personal and departmental engagement with the library system; renovations on Leavey library and other spaces; library collections projects; MSLIS updates; and library related technical services reorganization. At this meeting the following guest were in attendance and provided reports (Hassaan Ebrahim, undergrad chief of staff; John McDonald, Associate Dean for Collections; and Bill Deverell, Chair, History) to provide expertise.

The second meeting was held at Doheny Library on February 10, 2015 and continued to deepen the themes on which we had previously agreed. . Our third and last meeting occurred on April 23, 2015 at the Norris Medical Library on the Health Sciences Campus. Our guests included Janis Brown (interim Associate Dean for Health Sciences Libraries; Sam Gustman, Associate Dean for IT, USC Libraries) and Associate Dean for Planning and Communication Hugh McHarg, each of whom presented their library related responsibilities.

Over the course of the academic year, the following were primary meeting discussion topics :

- 1) Leavey Renovation. The continuing University investment in refurbishing the space and reorganizing the offices within is of paramount interest both for students and for those who work there, including Shoah. We are gladdened by the continued support of the President's Office in this coming summer's renovations, and we ask for it to continue actively in coming years.
- 2) MSLIS first graduating class. The inaugural cohort of twenty students will graduate this May. The committee supports the Dean fully on this exciting development.
- 3) Library restructuring and reorganization. The revision of structures in technical services promises to reduce redundancies and review excess journal subscriptions, merging serials and e-resources into one department. It places a premium on analytical and management skills for new hires. Over

the course of the year, we noted certain tensions between some of the Library staff over restructuring, new hires, and the elimination of certain positions. We ask future committees to remain aware and open to any concerns, but we also urge the Dean to continue to modernize the system and continue to explore ways to improve both service and delivery for all constituent groups.

- 4) Building partnerships with schools, departments, individuals, and through Residential Education. The Committee heard various plans to connect the Library system to other entities on and off campus(s). Several of these have reached fruition, including: *Feuchtwanger Refreshed* at Villa Aurora, Pacific Palisades, a collaboration between Doheny Special Collections and the MFA dramatic writing cohort at the School of Dramatic Arts; the creation of a California history-themed book collection at Parkside International Residential College; ongoing partnerships between Doheny and local television station KCET involving programming; a deepening collaboration with Bill Deverell and the Dornsife Department of History.
- 5) Faculty Survey. With the help of Hugh McHarg and others, we recommended the dispersal of an online USC Faculty Survey on the Libraries & Research Needs. It was initially distributed in March 2015, and results are under analyses.. We urge the next committee to evaluate the survey's findings and act accordingly with the full cooperation of Dean Quinlan with a goal of improving the process of meeting USC faculty's research needs.

Finally, we are aware that Dean Quinlan is nearing the end of her current Dean's contract, and we as a committee wish to assist her and the Library system in every way possible – either towards a new appointment as dean, or towards transitioning out and welcoming a new dean.

We would like to especially thank Benjamin Spofford, assistant to Dean Quinlan, for his help throughout the year in organizing our meetings.. And we once again celebrate Catherine for her unflinching commitment to the Library system, to our community, and to USC.

Sincerely,

Oliver Mayer
Associate Professor
USC School of Dramatic Arts

Gisele Ragusa
Professor
Viterbi School of Engineering