

BFA Library Committee Chair Report

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I have served as the Chair of the BFA Library Committee (BFALC) in the last two years. I will be on sabbatical the coming fall and when I come back, I will have a teaching scheduling conflict with the BFA Assembly meeting time. Therefore I requested to the Leeds School that it finds another person as a BFA rep. in the coming year. I also informed the BFA Chair, Bob Ferry, that I would no longer be the BFA Chair and discussed with him a plan where I could help with finding the new chair and making a smooth transition.

In my second year as the BFALC Chair, I had two primary goals. One of them was to continue pursuing the goal of establishing an infrastructure that promotes and facilitates communication between the faculty members and the Libraries on this campus. By infrastructure, I mean a set up where any faculty member on this campus can find a BFALC representative and ask him/her to relay any concern or suggestion or comment to the committee and where any issue or news that the committee discusses can be disseminated to all the faculty members on this campus if needed to. As described in the first year report, the way that BFALC decided to implement this goal was to have a representative from each of the nine Colleges/Schools, except that the College of the Arts & Science should have a representative from each of the three major areas (Arts & Humanities, Natural Sci, and Soc. Sci). I am glad to say that with the help of the current and the former members of BFALC, it now has members that represent each of the colleges (except the Natural Science area of A&S). We have also explored a way to communicate within each college. I knew some colleges have an email list whose members include all the faculty members in the college but was not sure that all colleges do. But AVC Katherine Eggert was able to confirm for us that each college does have such a list. So we now have the infrastructure desired (except a representative of the physical science area). When the new BFALC Chair is found, I will share with him or her the motivation and the vision I had for this goal.

The second goal was to promote open access and open educational resource on the campus. As briefed in multiple presentations to BFA and BFALC during the last year on these topics, I am glad to say that this goal is being pursued actively even without much help from the BFA LC.

There were two other endeavors noteworthy although they are in their early stages. One is to support proactive communication and deliberation regarding the upcoming renewal (or non-renewal) with Elsevier Publisher journal subscription contract. The University of California System and its ten campuses decided not to renew their contract with Elsevier because they could not come to an agreeable term. The issues that came up, especially those related to the

transition to open access and the finance, are quite relevant to CU Boulder. Elsevier journals together provide a venue where the faculty members on this campus publish most. UCB's contract ends in December 2020. Until then, we would like to be prepared through disseminating information and soliciting feedback from the affected faculty members and form consensus on the best course of action when the time comes. BFALC had meetings discussing the situation and I made presentations summarizing the discussions to the BFA Executive Committee. The consensus resulting from these discussions was to form a task force for managing this issue and to use what happened at the Univ. of California System as a valuable learning resource.

The other endeavor was the possible formation of PAC 10 Library Alliance. The endeavor was more to explore whether such formation is worth pursuing rather than an actual pursuit of the formation itself, in light of the fact that CU Boulder Library already belongs to other alliances such as Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries (CARL) and Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA). The advantage that PAC 10 Alliance, if feasible, would offer over the other alliances would be that its members would share more in common, being top research universities of similar sizes and purposes, and also that the administrators of the member universities are already meeting regularly, thus potentially facilitating agreements and actions on items of importance. At the same time, this alliance would have to deal with many issues for it to become feasible such as the fact that the other universities in PAC 10 may not see the need for one given that they also belong to other library alliances already. I assume that it is the decision that the next BFALC Chair will be making in consultation with the committee and the Dean of the Libraries.