LAUC-SB Research and Professional Development (RPD) Committee
Annual Report FY19

Members: Mary-Michelle Moore, Danelle Moon, Annie Platoff, Chrissy Rissmeyer (Vice Chair / Chair Elect), Alex Regan (Chair).

The primary responsibilities of the Research and Professional Development Committee (RPD) are (1) to solicit, review, and make recommendations on proposals submitted by UCSB librarians for funding under the LAUC Grant program; and (2) to monitor and approve disbursement of LAUC professional development funding during the fiscal year.

Calls for LAUC Grant proposals are issued twice each year, in fall for research, mini, and presentation grants; and in spring for presentation grants. In FY19, five presentation grant proposals, one in fall and four in spring, were submitted to the committee. For all of these, we provided feedback and guidance to the submitters, and we forwarded all to the statewide RPD Committee with a positive recommendation. All five were funded; however, due to the large number of grants awarded at the statewide level in the fall, there was not enough RPD funds to award all successful applicants from the spring call the full $600 award amount. The statewide R&PD Committee Chair was able to tap into the LAUC President’s supplemental funds, however, to award a maximum of $500 to all successful presentation grants applicants.

To raise awareness of LAUC members about the grant program, the committee presented a session in February entitled “LAUC Grants: What You Can Get, How You Can Get It.” We decided to schedule this presentation during Winter Quarter, well before the call for research, mini, and presentation grants was issued in September, so that librarians would have ample opportunity to think about possible proposals rather than first hear about the call amid the flurry of activities that always occurs at the start of a new academic year. Though sparsely attended, the session was well received. We scheduled the presentation again in June and it is recommended that this happen every June with the outgoing chair taking responsibility for organizing this session. One recommendation is to schedule these sessions during the all LAUC membership meetings in June and January.

It is the task of the RPD chair to track all requests for LAUC professional development funds submitted by UCSB members of the UC Librarian Series. In FY19, 37 librarians were eligible for $2,000 each as LAUC members, for a total of $74,000 available. 88 requests were submitted for travel and membership costs totaling $58,183.40; of this total, LAUC funds were issued to cover $49,568.31, and the remaining $8,615.09 was covered by other funding (Learning & Growth, other professional development, and personal funds). The RPD chair worked with Mary Kohler in Administration to reconcile LAUC RPD and Administrative record keeping. One recommendation for RPD in FY20 is to meet with Mary Kohler quarterly to do the reconciliation.

I would like to thank the members of the FY19 RPD committee for their contributions and service during the year just ended, and extend wishes for a successful new RPD year to the incoming chair and committee.

Respectfully submitted by Alex Regan