

Connecting with the Library (under)Commons

Building Community *through* Class
Solidarity as Anticolonial Praxis

Intro

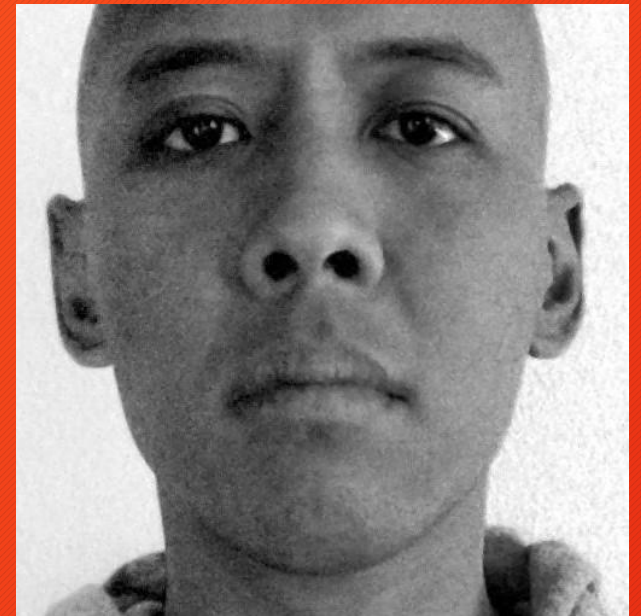
Luz Badillo
she / her / ella



Selina Portera
she / her



lawrence maminta
they / them



The Undercommons

The University and the Undercommons

SEVEN THESES

Philosophy thus traditionally practices a critique of knowledge which is simultaneously a denegation of knowledge (i.e., of the class struggle). Its position can be described as an *irony* with regard to knowledge, which it puts into question without ever touching its foundations. The questioning of knowledge in philosophy always ends in its restoration: a movement great philosophers consistently expose in each other.
—Jacques Rancière, *On the Shores of Politics*

Fred Moten and
Stefano Harney

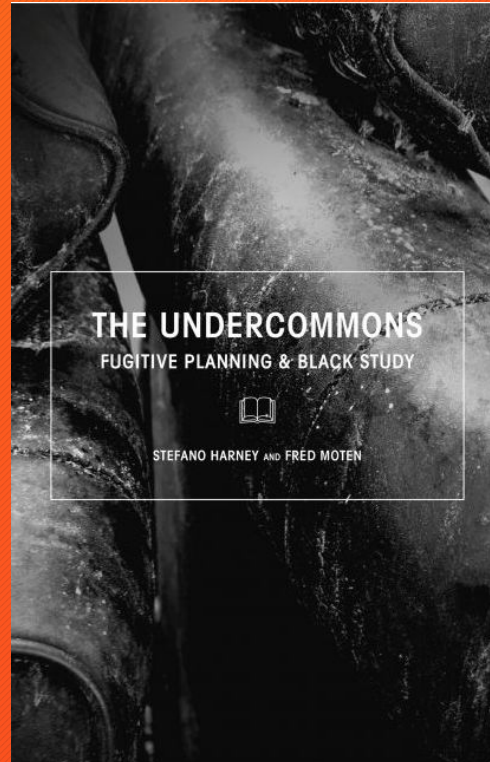
I am a black man number one, because I am against what they have done and are still doing to us; and number two, I have something to say about the new society to be built because I have a tremendous part in that which they have sought to discredit.

—C. L. R. James, *C. L. R. James: His Life and Work*

The Only Possible Relationship to the University Today Is a Criminal One

“To the university I’ll steal, and there I’ll steal,” to borrow from Pistol at the end of *Henry V*; as he would surely borrow from us. This is the only possible relationship to the American university today. This may be true of universities everywhere. It may have to be true of the university in general. But certainly, this much is true in the United States: it cannot be denied that the university is a place of refuge, and it cannot be accepted that the university is a place of enlightenment. In the face of these conditions one can only sneak into the university and steal what one can. To abuse its hospitality, to spite its mission, to join its refugee colony, its gypsy encampment, to be in but not of—this is the path of the subversive intellectual in the modern university.

Worry about the university. This is the injunction today in the United States, one with a long history. Call for its restoration like Harold Bloom or Stanley Fish or Gerald Graff. Call for its reform like Derek Bok or Bill Readings or Cary Nelson. Call out to it as it calls to you. But for the subversive intellectual, all of this goes on upstairs, in polite company, among the rational men. After all, the subversive intellectual came under false



the university: last words

I am a black man number one, because I am against what they have done and are still doing to us; and number two, I have something to say about the new society to be built because I have a tremendous part in that which they have sought to discredit.

C. L. R. James

The epigraph stays the same. Let’s review. There’s a figure, now as much digital avatar as analogical body, that sometimes we call the subversive intellectual and other times the critical intellectual. We try to have sympathy with him because he is us when we are torn apart in the lonely complicity of the university relation. We don’t dog him, because he’s us; but he ain’t us because us ain’t Him, which is to say one, that one, that sovereign intellectual figure/shadow/glitch, tenured or untenured, adjunct or held, serially liked in his sad, self-acknowledged unlikeability, unloved but desired by those he abusively desires but cannot love. There’s a question this over-representative man can’t ask, let alone address, even when she’s under-represented. It is a question concerning the general and differentiated impositions bearing down on workers in the university before and after the current crisis, whatever the current crisis may be. The question is this: How much of the academy’s libidinal political economy is predicated on the fantasy of a liveable (individual) intellectual life? Such predication is both normal and normative. How could it be otherwise? That’s the training; that’s the discipline; that’s the fucking model that administration and/in/of the professors and their apprentices give, not that we live it, because it’s a fantasy for us even in our subversive criticality. Assertions of someone else’s absolute privilege absolves no one who imagines they should be paid to study, as if the wage were half an honorific and half a right rather than all anti-communist insult, imposition and theft. The various misprisions of subversive criticality have as much to do with why what we do ain’t fun as they have to do with why we can’t make ends meet. The regulation of pleasure is essential to the war on subsistence. Fleshly and spiritual unsustainability, which are not so much imposed on the reality of individual bodies and minds but given in the very idea of them, form a range of

sources:

<https://su.edu/content/dam/Education/documents/the%20university%20and%20the%20undercommons.pdf>

<https://www.minorcompositions.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/undercommons-usb.pdf>

https://anthropology.fas.harvard.edu/files/anthrodept/files/the_university_last_words_fred_moten_and_stefano_harney.pdf

The Undercommons

“...[T]he downlow, low-down maroon community of the university,...where the work gets done, where the work gets subverted, where the revolution is still black, still strong.”

Organizational Charts

READ MORE

Google's Sundar Pichai Has More Direct Reports Than the CEOs of Meta, Amazon, Apple

By Jon Victor



Sundar Pichai
CEO

Sundar Pichai's reports



Thomas Kurian
SVP, Google Cloud



Philipp Schindler
SVP, Chief Business Officer



Prabhakar Raghavan
SVP



Jen Fitzpatrick
SVP, Core



Hiroshi Lockheimer
SVP, Platforms & Ecosystems



Rick Osterloh
SVP, Devices & Services



Neal Mohan
SVP and Head of YouTube



Ruth Porat
SVP and CFO of Google and Alphabet



Fiona Cicconi
SVP, People Operations & Chief People Officer



Lorraine Twohill
SVP, Global Marketing



Kent Walker
President, Global Affairs & Chief Legal Officer



Jeff Dean
SVP, Google Research and AI



Corey duBrowa
VP, Global Communications & Public Affairs



Benedict Gomes
SVP, Learning & Education



James Manyika
SVP, Technology and Society



Tom Oliveri
VP, CEO Team

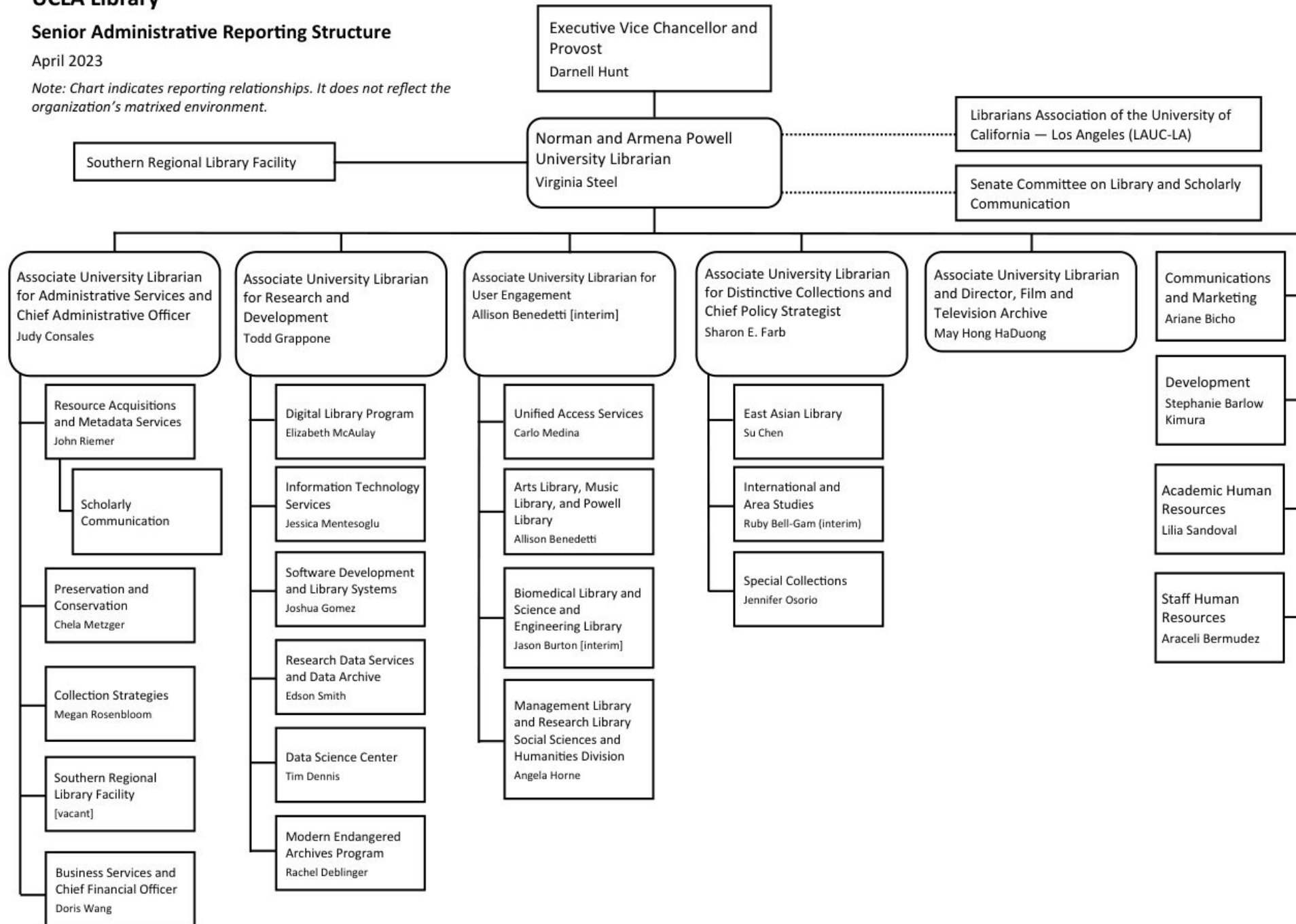


UCLA Library

Senior Administrative Reporting Structure

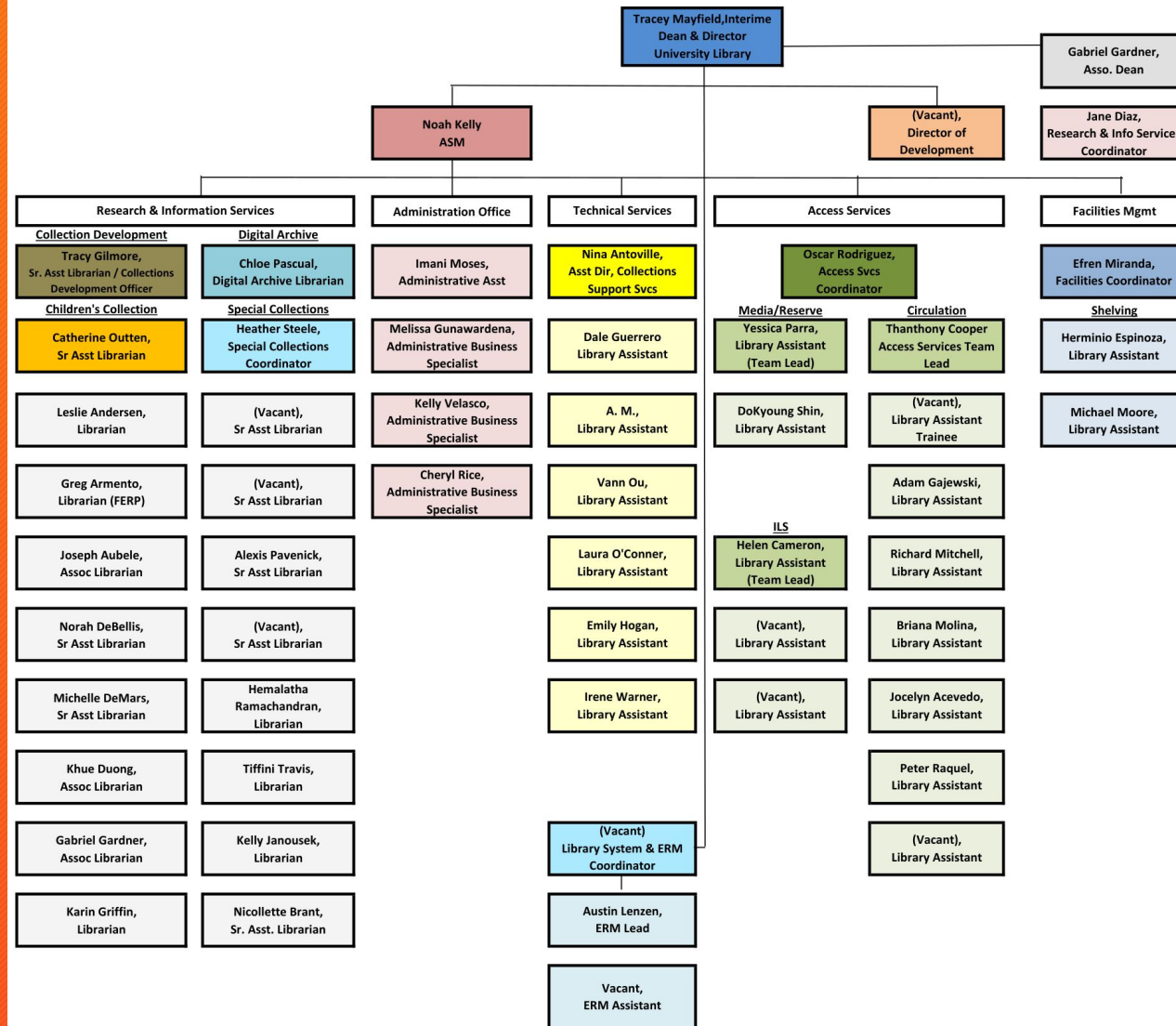
April 2023

Note: Chart indicates reporting relationships. It does not reflect the organization's matrixed environment.



UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ORGANIZATION CHART

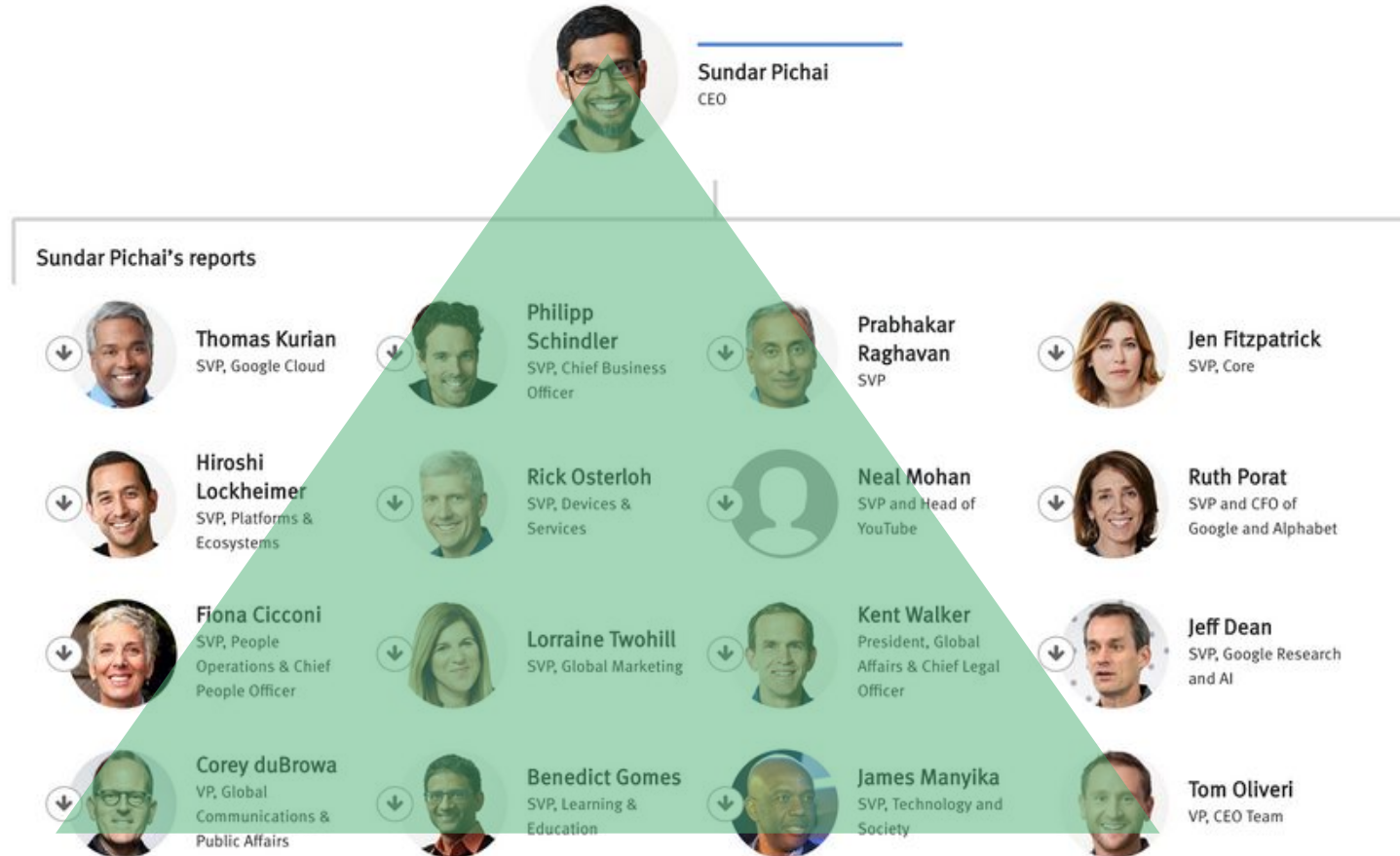
1/23/23



READ MORE

Google's Sundar Pichai Has More Direct Reports Than the CEOs of Meta, Amazon, Apple

By Jon Victor

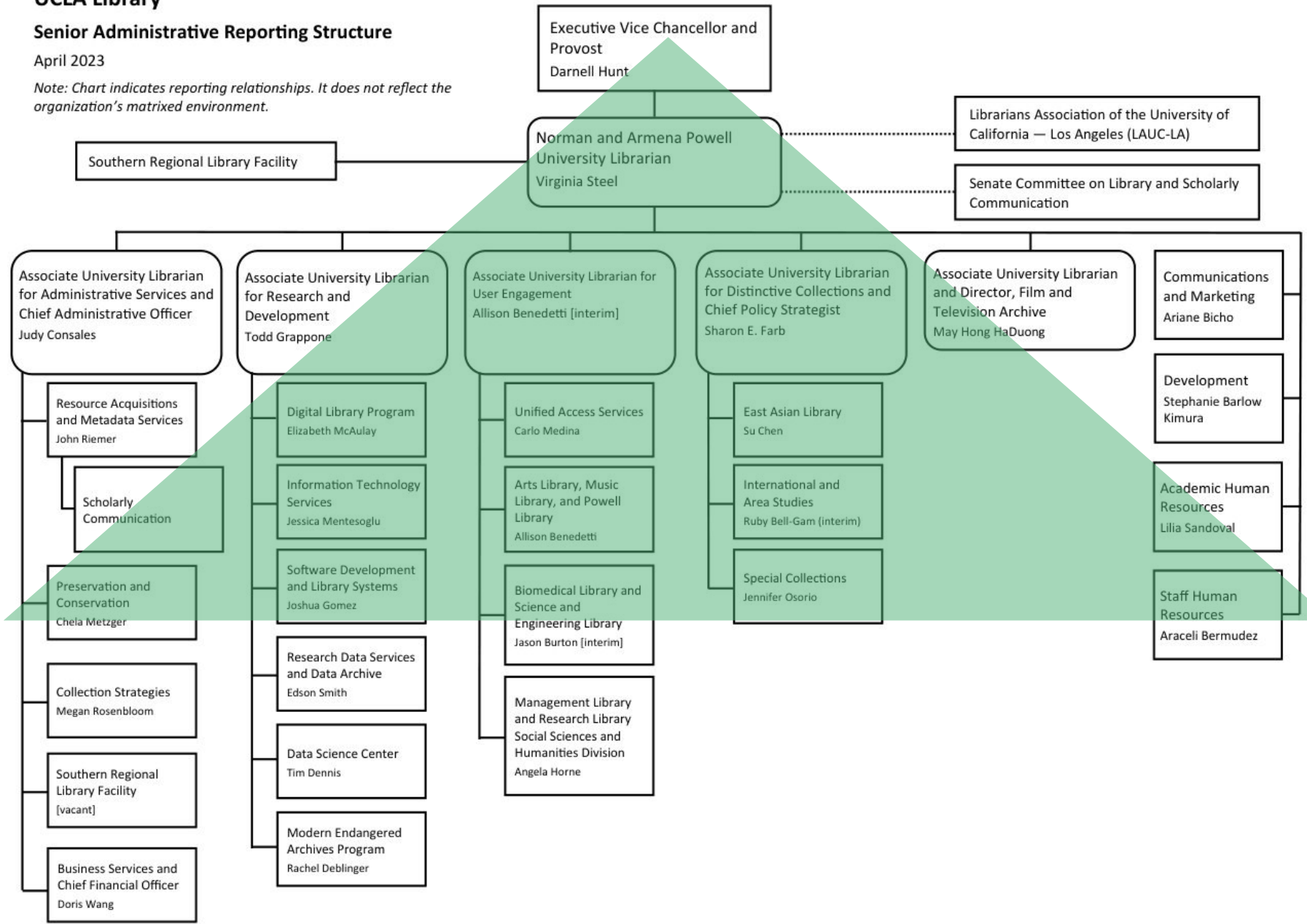


UCLA Library

Senior Administrative Reporting Structure

April 2023

Note: Chart indicates reporting relationships. It does not reflect the organization's matrixed environment.



“

In colonial development, the colonial power creates a middle class, usually to control the colony for itself.

”

Kathleen Cleaver



“ [I]n the process of our assimilation, we acquire traits of a particular class... and that creates a split between us and the working class and the poor, the so-called ‘lumpenproletariat’ ”

from “The Architects of Abolitionism”

Joy James



“ Professionalization in academic institutions distances many scholars and intellectuals from people and communities in radical social movements who are struggling against oppression. ”

from “Class Suicide: The Black Radical Tradition, Radical Scholarship, and the Neoliberal Turn”

Steven Osuna



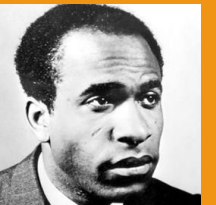
“

The colonized intellectual has invested his aggression in his barely veiled wish to be assimilated to the colonizer's world. He has placed his aggression at the service of his own interests, his interests as an individual.

”

from "On Violence"

Frantz Fanon

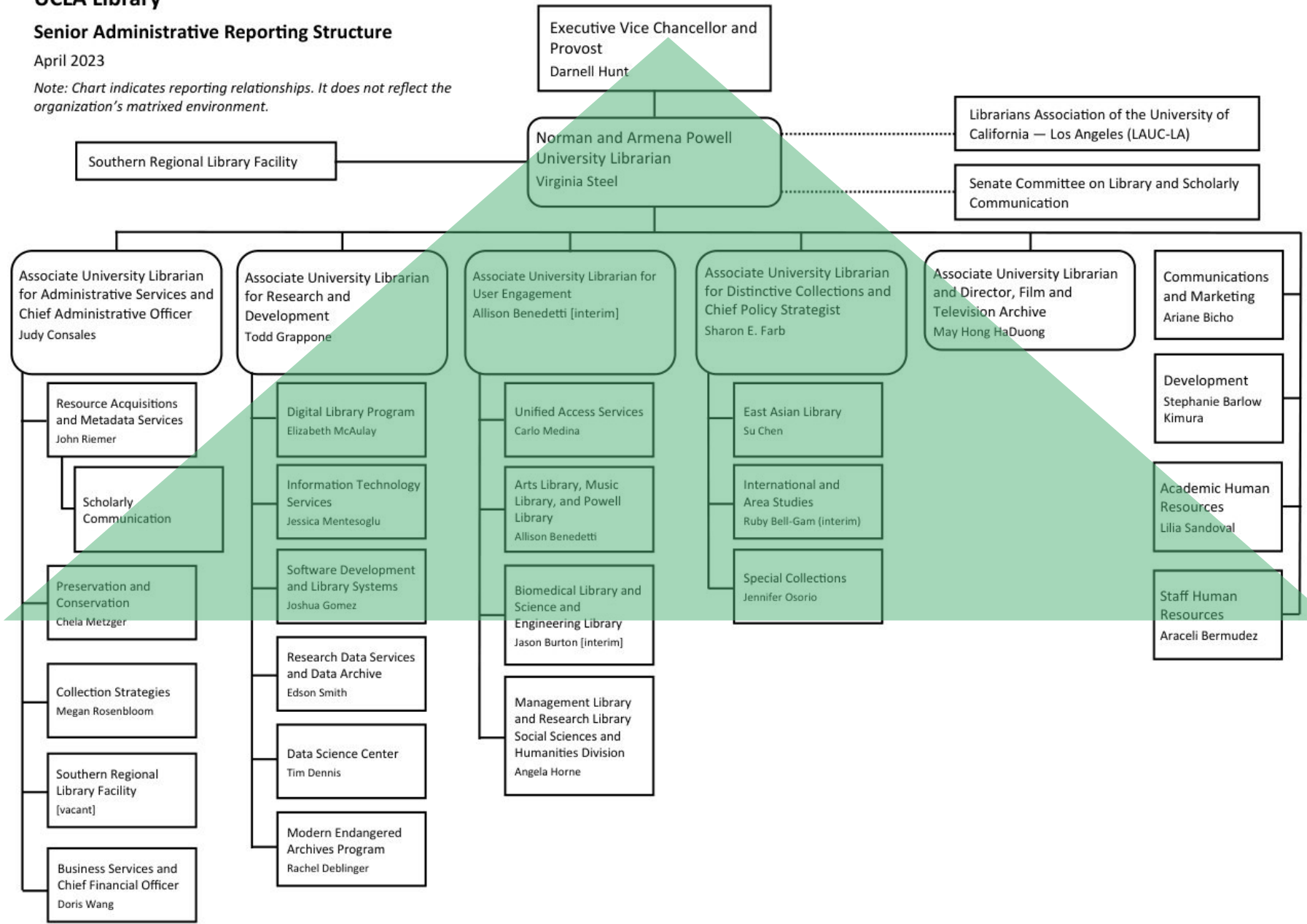


UCLA Library

Senior Administrative Reporting Structure

April 2023

Note: Chart indicates reporting relationships. It does not reflect the organization's matrixed environment.



The Neocolonial Process in Maintaining Racial Hierarchies (and Why We Experience Betrayal)

Seeking Community

~~Seeking~~ Building Community

“

To have community, we must commune. That is, we must insist on *community* as an action, as a verb.

”

from "Community as Rebellion: A Syllabus for Surviving Academia as a Woman of Color"

Lorgia García Peña



Who do you find yourself connecting with?



Class Solidarity

- Solidarity work is often enacted by, or *in collaboration with*, marginalized people
- Recognize the destructiveness of white supremacy to all of humanity
- Solidarity = talk AND action
- Acts of solidarity work to dismantle structures and institutions

source:

<https://sociologicallyinsignificant.tumblr.com/post/168723639918/over-the-word-ally-9-ways-solidarity-is-an-act-of>

“ ...[T]he revolutionary petty bourgeoisie must be capable of committing suicide as a class, to be restored to life in the condition of a revolutionary worker completely identified with the deepest aspirations of the people to which [they belong]. ”

from “Presuppositions and Objectives of National Liberation in Relation to Social Structure”

Amilcar Cabral



Thank You!

References

Cabral, Amílcar. *Unity and Struggle: Speeches and Writings*. Translated by Michael Wolfers. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1979.

Cleaver, Kathleen. *The Two Nations of Black America*, 1997.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/race/interviews/kcleaver.html>.

Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth*. Translated by Richard Philcox. 60th anniversary edition. New York, NY: Grove Press, 2021.

García Peña, Lorgia. *Community as Rebellion: A Syllabus for Surviving Academia as a Woman of Color*. Chicago, Illinois: Haymarket Books, 2022.

Grant, Jaime. “9 Reasons Why Acting in Solidarity for Racial Justice Is Preferable to ‘Allyship.’” *The Body Is Not An Apology* (blog), May 30, 2019. <https://thebodyisnotanapology.com/magazine/over-the-ally-9-ways-solidarity-is-an-act-of-radical-self-love/>.

References

Joy James: The Architects of Abolitionism, 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9rvRsWKDx0>.

Moten, Fred, and Stefano Harney. *The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning & Black Study*. Wivenhoe New York Port Watson: Minor Compositions, 2013.

Moten, Fred, and Stefano Harney. “The University and the Undercommons.” *Social Text* 22, no. 2 (2004): 101–15. https://doi.org/10.1215/01642472-22-2_79-101.

Moten, Fred, and Stefano Harney. “The University: Last Words,” 2020. https://anthropology.fas.harvard.edu/files/anthrodept/files/the_university_last_words_fred_moten_and_stefano_harney.pdf.

Osuna, Steven. “Class Suicide: The Black Radical Tradition, Radical Scholarship, and the Neoliberal Turn.” In *Futures of Black Radicalism*, 21–38, 2017.

Further Reading

Allen, Robert L. *Black Awakening in Capitalist America: An Analytic History*. 1st printing AWP ed. Trenton, N.J.: Africa World Press, 1990.

Du Bois, W. E. B. *Black Reconstruction in America: [1860-1880]*. 1. ed. New York, NY: The Free Press, 1998.

Frazier, E. Franklin. *Black Bourgeoisie*. 1st Free Press paperbacks ed. New York: Free Press Paperbacks, 1997.

Grande, Sandy. “Refusing the University.” In *Toward What Justice?*, by Eve Tuck and K. Wayne Yang, 47–65. edited by Eve Tuck and K. Wayne Yang, 1st ed. New York, NY : Routledge, 2018.: Routledge, 2018.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351240932-4>.

Hathcock, April. “Librarianship as Plantation.” *At The Intersection* (blog), April 6, 2019.

<https://aprilhathcock.wordpress.com/2019/04/06/librarianship-as-plantation/>.

Further Reading

Jackson, George. *Blood In My Eye*. Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1990.

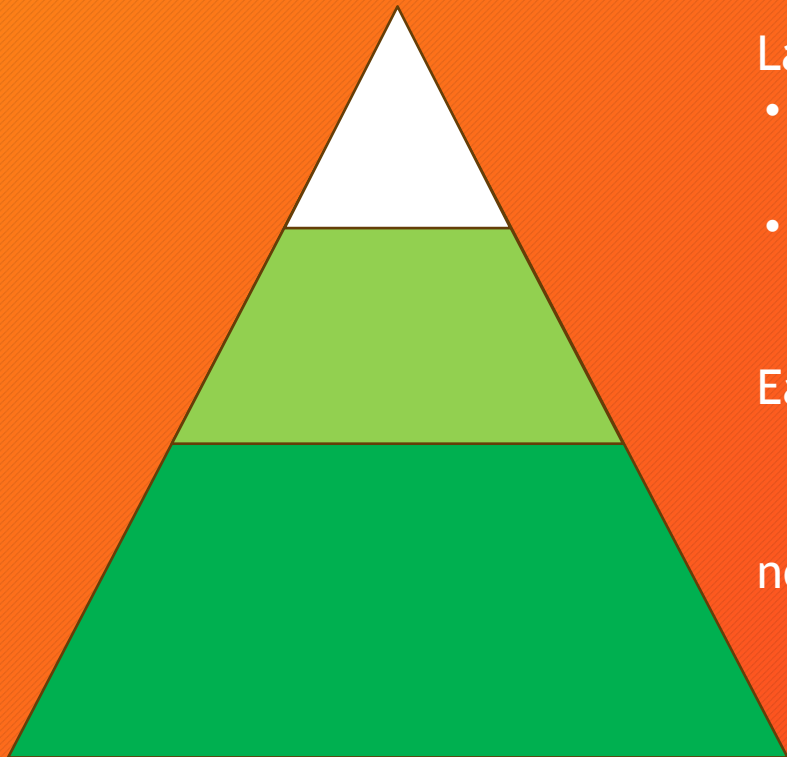
Nkrumah, Kwame. *Neo-Colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism*. New York: International Publishers, 1966.

Robinson, Cedric J. *Black Marxism, Revised and Updated Third Edition: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2021.

Rodriguez, Dylan. *White Reconstruction: Domestic Warfare and the Logics of Genocide*. Fordham University Press, 2021.

Undercommoning Collective. “Undercommoning within, against and beyond the University-as-Such.” *ROAR Magazine*, June 5, 2016. <https://roarmag.org/essays/undercommoning-collective-university-education/>.

Power Structures



Late Career, Six-Figure Income, Positions of Power and Influence

- Individualism, demands of lower status librarians and staff, assimilated, instances where identity is weaponized for power and acceptance
- What is done with this power? How are resources allocated

Early to Mid Career Librarians ↑

non-degree holding library workers, and part time workers