

Faculty Senate Resolution on University Library Funding (October 2016)

Whereas the University of Louisiana at Lafayette aspires to move up in Carnegie Classification from a regional university to a nationally competitive research-intensive institution with “Very High Research Activity”¹;

Whereas the University’s Strategic Plan for 2015 - 2020 calls on the University to “allocate sufficient funds to increase library expenditures for provision of research and information resources to meet or exceed the average of our comparative peer institutions”²;

Whereas the University’s Strategic Plan for 2015 - 2020 further calls on the University to “enhance supporting infrastructure for the conduct of research and innovation”³; “implement and sustain student support to retain graduate students,” “expand support for graduate students,” and “develop an undergraduate research initiative”⁴;

Whereas a university’s library is a key indicator of the overall health and quality of the institution, and “the library is the physical manifestation of the core values and activities of academic life”⁵;

Whereas evidence demonstrates a correlation between investment in a university library’s collections and services and an increase in grant funding awarded the university⁶;

Whereas university libraries are tied to institutional outcomes related to faculty research productivity, teaching, and service⁷;

¹ “University of Louisiana at Lafayette Strategic Planning Report: 2015 - 2020,” accessed October 17, 2016, <http://www.louisiana.edu/sites/louisiana/files/Strategic%20Plan%202015%20-%202020%20%20final%20revision%2011%2010%2015.pdf>.

² “University of Louisiana at Lafayette Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020,” accessed October 17, 2016, <http://www.louisiana.edu/about-us/office-president/strategic-plan/strategic-imperative-faculty>.

³ “University of Louisiana at Lafayette Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020,” accessed October 17, 2016, <http://www.louisiana.edu/about-us/office-president/strategic-plan/strategic-imperative-research>.

⁴ “University of Louisiana at Lafayette Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020,” accessed October 17, 2016, <http://www.louisiana.edu/about-us/office-president/strategic-plan/strategic-imperative-students>.

⁵ George D. Kuh and Robert M. Gonyea, “The Role of the Academic Library in Promoting Student Engagement in Learning,” *College & Research Libraries* 64, 4 (2003): 256-282, accessed October 12, 2016, <http://crl.acrl.org/content/64/4/256.full.pdf+html>.

⁶ “Correlation found between investment in university libraries and grant awards,” accessed October 11, 2016, https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-08/e-cfb080910.php.

⁷ “Value of Academic Libraries: A Comprehensive Research Review and Report,” Association of College and Research Libraries, accessed October 17, 2016, http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/issues/value/val_report.pdf.

Whereas the ability to produce meaningful research at any level – undergraduate, graduate, or faculty – is severely impeded by lack of access to current scholarship;

Whereas evidence demonstrates positive contributions of academic libraries to student learning and achievement, including higher grade point averages and graduation rates^{8 9};

Whereas undergraduate student use of library services is a predictor of retention¹⁰;

Whereas the Library has only fifteen full-time faculty lines, or less than one faculty librarian per every 1,000 students;

Whereas the University allocated \$1,671,373 for library materials expenditures in 2014 (the most recent year for which data are available via the National Center for Education Statistics) for resources such as one-time payments for print books and ongoing subscription costs to journals and databases, which are essential to the research and education mission of the University, while our peer institutions averaged \$3,763,162 in library materials expenditures, a difference of \$2,091,789¹¹ (see Appendix A);

Whereas the University allocated \$272.00 in library expenditures per full-time student in 2014 while our peer institutions averaged \$511.00 in library expenditures per full-time student¹² (see Appendix B);

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette expects the University to prioritize Library funding for material and human resources, in line with the strategic initiatives and key performance indicators enumerated in the Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020.

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate expects the University to investigate in good faith sustainable and enduring sources of funding for the Library for both the near- and long-term,

⁸ “Academic Library Contributions to Student Success: Documented Practices from the Field,” Association of College and Research Libraries, accessed October 17, 2016, http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/issues/value/contributions_report.pdf.

⁹ Krista M. Soria, Jan Fransen, and Shane Nackerud, “Library Use and Undergraduate Student Outcomes: New Evidence for Students’ Retention and Academic Success,” *Libraries and the Academy* 13, 2 (2013): 147-164, accessed October 15, 2016, <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/504593>.

¹⁰ Adam Murray, Ashley Ireland, and Jana Hackathorn, “The Value of Academic Libraries: Library Services as a Predictor of Student Retention,” *College & Research Libraries* 77, 5 (2016): 631-642, accessed October 17, 2016, doi:10.5860/crl.77.5.631.

¹¹ Academic Libraries Information Center, National Center for Education Statistics, accessed October 11, 2016, <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/Section/Alscenter>.

¹² Academic Libraries Information Center, National Center for Education Statistics, accessed October 13, 2016, <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/Section/Alscenter>.

including but not limited to dedicating a percentage of funds to the Library from indirect costs associated with outside grants awarded the University (see Appendix C).