

2009-2010 BUDGET REDUCTION PROPOSAL FOR THE GEORGE A. SMATHERS LIBRARIES, INCLUDING THE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER LIBRARIES

At its January 2009 meeting, the University Library Committee passed the following resolution in support of the UF Libraries' budgets:

The University Library Committee strongly supports the retention of the budgets of the Smathers, Law and Health Science Center libraries at no less than the July 1, 2008 level. We are making this recommendation because the libraries are integral to the research and educational mission of the University, as stated in the Strategic Work Plan. A cut in library budgets would have a detrimental effect on every educational and research program at the University.

The proposed reductions in personnel and materials in the attached spreadsheet do affect all disciplines. Our priorities are driven by the students, faculty and staff whom we serve. While we don't anticipate any changes in the planned personnel reductions based on the currently available information, the Libraries will definitely readjust the materials budgets in response to the final budgets for the Colleges so the collections continue to support ongoing research and academic efforts.

The Libraries and library resources remain the reliable source of information for student and faculty in all disciplines. Diminishing the quality of the collections and services provided by the Libraries shortchanges the students and encourages them to use less reliable resources, primarily those available via the Internet.

Personnel Reductions and Strategic Decisions

The proposed personnel reductions in the attached spreadsheet would result in the loss of 6.5 faculty positions, 20 staff positions, and the equivalent of 15 FTE OPS positions, of which 3 staff and 4.2 faculty positions are, or will be, vacant due to retirement, reassignment or resignation. A 10% reduction in the Libraries' budgets would result in layoffs of 17 staff and 2.3 faculty members.

The Smathers Libraries, in consultation with the faculty and staff, have recommended no personnel reductions in the Digital Library Center (DLC), the Auxiliary Storage Facility (ALF) or Access Support. DLC and ALF are strategic components of the Libraries. DLC makes a wide variety of our print resources available in electronic form for 24-7 access worldwide. In 2008, DLC generated over 2 million high-quality page images from our collections, making these collections more visible and accessible. The storage facility helps us manage our least-used, but still necessary, collections, thereby preserving more expensive space in our on-campus Libraries. ALF staff are also preparing for the new SUS storage facility that will be built in a few years. Access Support provides interlibrary loan, electronic reserves, copyright clearances, and other library-wide services. In order to continue to support the information needs of UF students, faculty and staff, the Libraries anticipate a substantial increase in interlibrary loan requests to offset the proposed reduction in the materials budgets.

The Libraries also continue our efforts to recruit for several key faculty positions that cannot be filled internally, including the Head of the Price Library of Judaica and a chemistry librarian for which candidate interviews are being scheduled. We have already reassigned 1 faculty member and 2 part-time staff (1 FTE) to critical vacancies to optimize use of existing personnel.

In 2008, the Libraries deferred searches for chairs for Library West, Marston Science Library and the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections. Several faculty members were assigned as interim chairs and interim associate chairs for two years, with the expectation that we would conduct national searches to fill those positions prior to the expiration of their appointments when we anticipated that funds would be available. Giving up the salary savings from retirements, reassignments and resignations will eliminate the funds necessary to fill these key managerial positions when they become vacant in 2010.

Lost Purchasing Power

A recent analysis shows that the Libraries (other than the Legal Information Center) will lose \$534,738 in purchasing power in 2009-2010. This is a 6.1% reduction in the purchasing power of our materials budgets.

For many years, the Libraries have requested that the University provide annual increases in the materials budgets that at least offset the loss of purchasing power. While this would not allow us to expand information resources to support new programs and research centers and to serve growing student populations, it would have allowed the Libraries to sustain their then current level of resources. In 2006-2007, the Smathers Libraries budget was increased by \$750,000 to avoid journal cancellations and other reductions in materials purchases as a result of the loss of purchasing power due to price increases over several years.

As the chart below shows, the Libraries will have lost an additional \$1.7 million in purchasing power in the three years from 2007-2008 through 2009-2010.

SUMMARY OF LOST PURCHASING POWER FOR MATERIALS, 2007-2008 THROUGH 2009-2010: The George A. Smathers Libraries and The Health Science Center Libraries					
FORMAT	2008-2009 BUDGET	LOSS TO INFLATION	% PRICE INCREASE	3-YEAR AVERAGE LOSS	3-YEAR TOTAL LOSS
PRINT MONOGRAPHS	\$1,095,126	-\$58,042	5.3%	-\$61,172	-\$183,517
PRINT SERIALS	\$1,802,515	-\$129,781	7.2%	-\$139,350	-\$418,049
DATABASES	\$2,224,766	-\$133,486	6.0%	-\$141,655	-\$424,966
ELECTRONIC JOURNALS	\$3,685,749	-\$184,287	5.0%	-\$193,655	-\$580,966
OTHER	\$493,924	-\$29,142	5.9%	-\$30,895	-\$92,684
TOTAL	\$9,302,080	-\$534,738		-\$566,727	-\$1,700,182
AVERAGE			6.1%		

College of Medicine Accreditation

The University of Florida College of Medicine is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). On June 25, 2007, Robert Eaglen, Ph.D., Interim LCME Secretary, wrote to President Machen concerning action taken by the LCME with respect to the College of Medicine at its meeting on June 5-7, 2007. On page 3 Dr. Eaglen states:

The LCME noted the following areas in transition whose outcome could affect the school's ongoing compliance with accreditation standards:

Stability of library services. The library's ability to continue to meet the college's educational and other needs will be challenged by anticipated staff retirements and the uncertainty of ongoing funding sources for its operation.

On the same page, Dr. Eaglen requests that the College of Medicine "provide a chart or graph depicting library funding, total print collections for books and journals, total electronic collections for books and journals, and total numbers of professional staff for the three most recent years." He also requested a summary of "any successes or challenges in identifying stable funding sources for the library" for the next review, which is currently scheduled for August 1, 2009. The Libraries will be providing the College of Medicine with that information by July 1, 2009.

While the Libraries are only one of many factors evaluated in renewing accreditation, the College of Medicine will certainly need to notify LCME of changes in the HSCL materials budget and staffing, and as a courtesy, will inform LCME about the integration the HSCL into the Smathers Libraries.

Conclusion

The Libraries were asked to identify budget cuts of \$387,799 from HSCL and \$2.278 million from Smathers, for a total of \$2,665,799.

The current economic situation nationally and in the state of Florida clearly makes it difficult for the University to provide additional resources to the Libraries, no matter how much those resources may be needed. However, as the University Library Committee stated, "A cut in library budgets would have a detrimental effect on every educational and research program at the University." The Libraries' budgets were held harmless in 2008-2009 in spite of the difficult economic situation and the campus was grateful, as were the Libraries' faculty and staff.

The Libraries, and our users, trust that our budgets will again be protected to the maximum extent possible in this difficult time. Whatever is required of us, the Libraries will make every effort to deliver the best possible service to our users with the resources provided to us.