




March 18, 2014

To: Jose Wudka, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Ward Beyermann, Chair   
Committee on Educational Policy

Re: Review of the UCR Libraries Strategic Plan

The strategic plan for UCR's libraries was sent to the members of Educational Policy for feedback. While the response was limited, two members provided thoughtful comments. The more critical of these responses is concerned with the banal nature of the document and the absence of detail for achieving specific goals. For example, strategic goal 5 discusses diversifying revenue sources and pursuing extramural funding. It would be informative to know what is achievable at other university libraries. Also, strategic goal 1.3 talks about "...inserting library support into key points in the grant process..."; however how specifically will this be accomplished?

The second response suggests an additional role for the library, not mentioned in the plan. It is pointed out that the campus lacks a coordinated cross-disciplinary effort to utilize the geographic information system (GIS). The library is well suited for this task because it involves the collection, organization and presentation of information. Also ESRI, an international supplier of GIS software in Redlands, has reached out to UCR in the past to establish a "Geospatial Reasoning Institute".

Personally, I find this document to be an ambitious plan. That is not necessarily a bad, though more detail adds plausibility to the large number of objectives. There is also some ambiguity in the objectives. For example, strategic goals 1.2 and 3.1 are very similar. I have the impression the distinction is with who obtains these collections. Also, it seems like strategic goal 3.2 may belong under strategic goal 1. More detail, as suggested by our first respondent, may clarify this and justify the placement of these objectives.