To be received and placed on file:

The committee this year consisted of John Baez (chair), Norman Ellstrand, Keith Harris, Jennifer Hughes, Alexander Korotkov and Chikako Takeshita. Ruth M. Jackson (University Librarian) and Barbara Schader (library representative) also participated.

The committee met on Thursday October 14th and Monday January 11th.

The committee sent a letter to all faculty informing them of the serious problems confronting the UCR libraries:

In 2007 the library spent $1,300,000 on print books. This year, due to budget reductions, the library has allocated only $375,000 on books. This represents a 70% cut.

During the same period, the budget for monograph series was slashed from $250,000 to $100,000. The library cancelled $100,000 worth of databases.

Student personnel for shelving books has been cut by nearly 50%.

In the years to come, the library estimates that books will increase in cost from 3-4% each year, databases, electronic resources and journals by about 8-9%.

The physical infrastructure of the library is also strained. Most of the stacks in Rivera are over 90% filled to capacity. Research collections in the humanities and social sciences need to be kept on site to support faculty research and graduate education. No solution to this is in sight unless the University is able to raise funds to address this issue through expansion and/or renovation.

The committee also wrote a response to the first draft of the report "UCR 2020: The Path to Preeminence", making the same points, and emphasizing that to achieve "preeminence" our campus should have state-of-the-art facilities, including libraries.

The committee also proposed ways to improve the library's overdue book policies, ways to tackle the space shortage problem at Rivera, and ways to make the process of de-accessioning books more transparent and less damaging to the collection.

John Baez
Chair
Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication