To be received and placed on file:

During the past year, the Committee on the Library has:

Evaluated and approved proposals for new graduate programs in Chemical and Environmental Engineering and Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology.

Noted the ongoing growth in student enrollment and new academic programs at UCR. While these developments are viewed as extremely positive for the campus, they necessitate augmented library resources to cope with increased demand for scholarly materials. The Library Committee therefore has resolved by acclamation the following:

"Given the projected growth in student enrollment and new academic programs on the UCR campus, and in view of the fact that new schools of Law and Medicine are contemplated, Chancellor Raymond Orbach is urged to provide the financial support required for new library acquisitions and services to meet new demands for scholarly materials".

Participated in discussions of the Systemwide UC Library Committee (UCOL) on many issues relevant to campus libraries. Dialog amongst UCOL members reflected the same concern for library welfare that the foregoing resolution has addressed. Indeed, a "Library Planning and Action Initiative Advisory Task Force" (ATF) was commissioned during the past year to examine ways "to identify organizational, budgetary, and functional changes required to ensure the continued scholarly and economic vitality of the University of California's (UC) libraries, to guide library evolution over the next decade, and to ensure that immediate actions are taken in support of such changes and evolution". The final report of the ATF was completed in March 1998, and formed the basis of discussions amongst UCOL representatives.

Discussions focused on many aspects of the report, some of which are:

1. Block grant funding for the nine UC campuses has replaced central funding of the libraries. This strategy has led to unequal investments in library resources on each campus. It is generally felt that the UC libraries face a growing crisis due to lack of sufficient financial resources to support the scholarly needs of students and faculty.

2. Regarding budgetary needs, libraries on many campuses are mistakenly viewed as infrastructure and often handled as "deferred maintenance". This model could well lead to problems that become apparent only upon imminent collapse, at which time the cost of repair may be prohibitive. This threatens the academic excellence of the UC as a whole.
3. Although peer-reviewed publications are essential to merits and promotion processes at the UC, the costs associated with acquisition of these resources are not sustainable at current increasing rates. The model for the library is changing, and electronic media are viewed as part of the solution. However, the relative utility of electronic media varies with each discipline, and overwhelming sentiment remains strong for continued acquisition and maximum access to print media for the foreseeable future.

4. The library is clearly one of the most precious resources available to students and faculty at the UC. Therefore, UCOL endorses a model whereby the Library Committee on each campus should become a voting member of the Senate Executive Committee so as to adequately represent and lobby for continued excellence of the library. This already has been accomplished on the Santa Barbara campus and should be pursued on all other campuses as well.

Concerned faculty and students can become informed of the issues facing UC libraries by consulting the home page of the Library Planning and Action Initiative Task Force:

http://www.lpai.ucop.edu/

The final report of the ATF can be found at: http://www.lpai.ucop.edu/outcomes/finalrpt/

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