COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
MAY 24, 2005

To be received and placed on file:

The Committee this year consisted of E. N. Anderson (Chair), J. Bachant, W. Bracken, L. Chia, A. N. Korotkov, C. A. Reed; R. M. Jackson, University Librarian; Stefanie Wittenbach, Library Representative.

The Committee met on Dec. 2, 2004, and Feb. 4, 2005. We are conducting more of our business by email; lack of meetings does not indicate a lack of activity. Meetings usually occur to deal with specific requests involving proposed graduate programs, and this academic year the only one of note was the proposal for the new Southeast Asian Studies program, which we approved after minor clarifications. We also discussed the system-wide strategic plan for libraries and information. The Chair attended the annual UCOL system-wide meeting, in Oakland this year, on Feb. 24.

Dr. Jackson is now meeting regularly with the highest levels of administration at UCR, and library issues are consequently receiving more and better attention than in previous years.

The budget remains a point of serious concern, but the library is well and fairly treated by the current UCR and system-wide administrations. More serious now is the problem with skyrocketing book and journal prices, especially the prices of the for-profit scientific journal publishers. The UC system has made major progress in fighting against extreme increases, but the problem is endemic to the current scholarly communications model and is not likely to be solved soon. See our annual reports for the last two years for more details.

Another chronic concern, here and system-wide, is teaching the students how to use the rapidly increasing variety of electronic and print media and formats. This is out of our immediate charge, but we are happy to see that the library is responding to the need. We urge the Academic Senate to make every effort to see that students get training in information technology, in the meaning of intellectual integrity, and the appropriate intellectual property rights issues.

The inequity noted in previous reports still exists: newly hired laboratory scientists get very large start-up packages for establishing laboratories, but new hires in other fields get nothing for book and journal purchasing. This condition exists at other UC campuses as well, though UCSC does give small amounts. We reaffirm our resolution that colleges should provide at least some sort of start-up package for those new hires that need books but not laboratories. Besides the equity issue, the justification for laboratory start-up packages holds here too: the better the facilities, the better the research (and opportunities for getting extramural funding).