



April 8, 2019

Dear Provost Edwards,

The Library Faculty Advisory Board writes you in support of the Library's request for additional funding. As you know, in recent attempts to correct Wright State's loss of vital reserves, severe budget cuts have been made university-wide, resulting in considerable losses of both staff and faculty and seriously reduced funding for programs and basic materials.

The Library, which serves the entire Wright State community, has been particularly hard hit. Many library staff retired early, chose to leave for more secure and less stressful jobs, or took a cut in hours worked so as not to lose their jobs entirely. This has resulted in a **40% loss of staff**, a mindboggling drop considering the Library's vital role in the university community. The Library has also been required to make deep cuts in its collections and services. **While student enrollment has dropped since 2016, requests for library services requiring staff have remained steady and in some areas even increased.**

The Library budget in FY16 was \$10,541,846 and in FY19 was \$6,269,572, a **decrease of 40%**. In other words, the FY19 budget is an emergency austerity budget, not a normal budget. If the budget is kept at the FY19 level (a flat budget), this is in practical terms a further cut, because the library would then have to make further cuts due to inflation.

Considering the Library's central role in supporting the University's mission of educational excellence, the LFAB supports its requests, which include:

Collections:

1st priority - \$113,500 to cover inflation on materials to which we currently subscribe.

2nd priority - \$50,000 to return IEEE Xplore (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) to the full package that includes the conference proceedings and journal articles from earlier than the past ten years (“turnaway” data for IEEE—attempts to access now-unavailable items—is currently about 500 turnaways per month).

3rd priority – additional funds to replace some of the 285 journal subscriptions canceled in just the past year. Examples of titles include:

Journal of immunology
Annals of internal medicine
Journal of chemical physics
Chemical communications
Nature materials
Nature nanotechnology
Nursing economics
Pediatric nursing
Professional school counseling
Journal of mental health counseling
Studies in conflict and terrorism
Critical Inquiry
Journal of gerontological social work
Psychological reports
Perceptual and motor skills

Staffing:

The Library needs to begin to replace lost staff positions; in FY2016 there were 63.26 FTE while in FY19 there are only 39.68.

- Service point transactions (information desk, circulation desk, STAC, SCA) – increased 4.92%
- Research appointments and consultations with MLS librarians and archivists (40% of these positions were lost since 2016) – increased 12.62%
- Total items added to CORE Scholar has increased by 36%
- Instructional classes taught – decreased by only 2% despite larger decreases in enrollment.

Examples of service cuts include workshops and orientations, electronic course reserves, and 3D printing; support for English Composition was reduced by 50% and STAC is now staffed 20 hours per week (a 70% reduction in hours).

The LFAB notes that the University Libraries serve not only Wright State faculty, students, staff, but also students and faculty from other OhioLINK member institutions; high school students and teachers; and members of the local, regional, and global community who use Library spaces, collections, and archival materials for their research and information needs.

We strongly support the University Libraries' request for funding that will begin to return to a normal rather than an emergency austerity budget. To continue the University Libraries' current skeletal budget will seriously damage the University as a whole.

Sincerely,

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