

Dear Provost Leaman,

The Library Faculty Advisory Board writes you in support of the Library's request for additional funding. The severe university-wide budget cuts of recent years have hit the Libraries particularly hard. Not only have they lost staff, they have also been forced to make deep cuts in collections and services. Since the Libraries serve the entire University community, these cuts have in turn impacted both faculty and students.

A modest increase to the Libraries' budget last year allowed them to replace one position, avoid additional cuts to resources, and reinstate full access to the IEEE Electronic Library, a resource vitally important to the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences. A flat or decreased budget for fiscal year 2021 would effectively eliminate those gains.

Given the Library's central role in supporting the University's mission of educational excellence, the Library Faculty Advisory Board supports its requests, which include:

- \$120,000 in new funding to cover anticipated inflation in the cost of subscriptions
- Unfreezing the hiring for the Head, Special Collections and Archives and the Social Sciences and Humanities Librarian

The Libraries' materials budget for FY20 was \$3,254,505. For comparison, the Libraries' materials budget in 2002 was \$3,798,694, \$500,000 higher than the current level. Given the impact of inflation over the years, their purchasing power is far less than it was in 2002. Indeed, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the inflation rate 2002 to 2020 is calculated at 143%, suggesting that a dollar spent in 2002 would equal the purchasing power of \$1.43 today. This puts the loss in budget into stark perspective.

The Library Faculty Advisory Board again stresses that the University Libraries serve all Wright State students, faculty and staff. In addition, they serve students and faculty from other OhioLINK 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 information needs. The Libraries' online presence, always important to the university community, has been crucial in recent weeks. While the huge shift to online services due to COVID-19 has taxed resources across the campus, it has hit the Libraries especially hard with hours lost in the shift of all services to remote.

We strongly support the University Libraries' request for the funding needed to maintain their current resources and their current level of staffing and hope that as the University's finances improve their budget can gradually be restored to where it was before the current financial crisis.

Sincerely,

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