

## **A Resolution Pertaining to the North Dakota State University Libraries' Materials Budget**

Whereas the accessibility of library resources by NDSU students, faculty, and staff is inferior to that at peer institutions, including the University of North Dakota, and

Whereas the ability to support our existing online databases and other holdings is increasingly at risk, and

Whereas the Libraries have exercised all available efforts in achieving cost efficiencies, including renegotiating database and other vendor contracts, and entering into additional consortial buying arrangements, and

Whereas fiscal constraints have necessitated cancellation of nearly all print subscriptions, including journals, magazines, and newspapers, and the Libraries have been without a book budget during the past four consecutive years, and

Whereas the faculty's collective concern was quantified in the 2011-12 COACHE Faculty Job Satisfaction Survey wherein all faculty cohorts ranked the NDSU Libraries in the lowest categories among their peers, and

Whereas the 2006, 2008 and 2010 Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventories showed student satisfaction with the Libraries' resources and services to be significantly lower than their opinion of the Libraries' importance, and

Whereas the administrative and faculty focus on growth has resulted in the classification of NDSU as a Research University of Very High Research Activity (RU/VH) by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education, and that maintaining its RU/VH ranking and competitive stature will depend upon availability of library resources to students, faculty and staff,

Therefore, let it be resolved that the North Dakota State University Faculty Senate urges the NDSU Administration, in consultation with faculty, students, and the Libraries, to design and implement a strategy to establish and maintain library holdings and database access at the average level of (parity with) NDSU's IPED peers. As this crisis has developed over a period of years, the Faculty Senate realizes that it will not be alleviated overnight. However, as this is a matter of considerable urgency, the Senate feels it warrants priority in the allocation of funds to achieve this goal within five years.

Let it be further resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that the Libraries' materials budget be funded to the greatest extent possible with new funds, and not with reallocations from academic college and/or department budgets.

And, let it be further resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that the NDSU Administration explore new funding streams including, but not necessarily limited to the following three, the combination of which would contribute significantly to ameliorating the Libraries' fiscal crisis:

*Immediate term.* Consider requesting the Student Fee Advisory Board to consider increasing the Student Library Fee by \$1.66 per credit as a short term strategy to allow the University's development and implementation of a long-term funding model. Further, the Faculty Senate wishes to acknowledge and commend our students' support of the University through recent budgetary challenges and, out of respect and appreciation for that support, the Faculty Senate acknowledges and recommends that any new funding strategy for the Libraries should not rely exclusively on regular or substantial increases in the Student Library Fee in subsequent years.

*Near term.* Consider increasing appropriated funding through directing a portion of the prospective new higher education funding model allocations to the Libraries in order to put the Libraries on a fiscal trajectory to establish and maintain parity with the holdings of peer institutions.

*Medium to long term.* Consider working with the Development Foundation to launch fund-raising campaigns aimed at establishing endowments for the long-term support of the Libraries.

Respectfully submitted,

Faculty Senate Library Committee