

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

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May 7, 2010

Dear Senate Chair Kletzer,

The Committee on the Library discussed the Committee on the Future Working Group Report at our April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. It's disconcerting to note that, in a 155-page report, there are only a handful of references to the Libraries at UC, and that the Libraries are only mentioned as part of a laundry list of items requiring resources. Nothing in the report, as written, is specific enough for us to comment on.

Nevertheless, COL is concerned that this lack of attention to Library issues in the Working Group Report does not capture the real issues facing the future of the UC Libraries (and our own Library). For example, the Size and Shape sub-group speaks to consolidation of redundant resources at UC and the use of technology to aid in this reduction. We note that there is often a belief that transitioning to digital technologies will produce future cost-savings for Libraries and may even reduce the need for Libraries to exist as a physical space. However, we note that the investment required by the Libraries to transition to and maintain this virtual Library is substantial and ongoing. Indeed, there may be an increase in costs associated with digitization including media and maintenance costs, digital preservation, migrating to new formats, the expense of the hardware itself and the need for more IT support.

We also note that the physical space of the Library is particularly key for the undergraduate teaching mission of the University as undergrads rely heavily on the Library space for learning. This is not likely to change in the future and again we are concerned about the implicit implication in the Report that consolidation of redundant resources is generally desirable – it is our opinion that Libraries are not a redundant resource but rather a key instructional resource in each campus. In addition, the professional Library staff are a key resource and are likely to become even more so with the deluge of information available in the digital world.

The bottom line is that UC must protect its Library funding and provide a stable means for funding into the future, more digital world. The importance of this point is entirely absent in the Working Group Report.

COL is aware that the Research Working Group subgroup has solicited a more explicit statement on the future of the UC Libraries as an extended comment on the Research portion of the Working Group Report, prepared by the UC Librarians and UCOLASC. COL gave some feedback on that statement. Hopefully, this summer's final recommendations of the Working Group will include a more explicit discussion of Library issues.

Sincerely,

Elise Knittle  
Chair, COL