
**Charge to University Task Force:
Sustainable Access to Scholarly Resources for Teaching, Learning, and Research**

Charge:

This Academic Affairs task force, co-chaired by the Chair of the Senate Library Committee and Western Libraries' Director for Scholarly Resources and Collection Services and comprising eight to eleven members appointed by the Faculty Senate, is charged with recommending to the Libraries broad principles and/or criteria to be applied when reducing or adding scholarly resources (particularly journals and databases) to support faculty and students' teaching, learning, and research needs.

The task force shall:

1. In light of significant projected scholarly resource deficits between FY 2016 and FY 2021, identify strategies aim to balance the resources budget through a sustainable combination of one-time purchases, annual licenses, purchase-on-demand, interlibrary loan, and/or open access content. For the purposes of this report, recommend transparent guidelines and processes that will result in expenditure reductions of 15 percent for FY17.
2. Recommend an annual process for possible future cuts of 10 percent for both FY18 and FY19, and 5 percent for both FY20 and FY21.
3. Recommend principles or criteria to guide the acquisition of additional scholarly resources, should funds become available, to support new or expanding academic programs, curricula, and/or research interests.
4. The task force shall report to the Senate Library Committee, which shall comment on the report and forward the report and comments to the Faculty Senate.

Membership:

The membership of the task force shall be as follows:

- 1) One faculty member from each of the following organizational units: CBE, CFP, Fairhaven, Huxley, Woodring, and the Libraries.
- 2) Two faculty members from each of the following organizational units: CHSS and CSE. Within each college, the two members shall be from different departments.
- 3) At most one "at large" faculty member from any department not represented by the members selected in 1) and 2) above.
- 4) Student member to be nominated by the Associated Students.

The process of selecting members shall be as follows:

- 1) Members of the Senate Library Committee may elect to nominate themselves or someone else from their unit.
- 2) A call for nominations will go out to the faculty governing bodies of each organizational unit.
- 3) Nominations will be reviewed by the Senate Library Committee. A recommended slate of candidates will be forwarded to the Senate.
- 4) The Faculty Senate will appoint members to the task force.

Context and Problem:

The Western Libraries lacks a budget sufficient to meet the many years of price increases for scholarly resources, and it cannot adequately accommodate faculty requests for new journals or databases. Assuming at best minimal permanent additions to the resource access budget or predictable, annual one-time funds to meet recurring financial obligations, the Western Libraries projects deficits as high as \$440,000 in FY 2017, growing to \$1.1 million by FY 2021. The anticipated deficits are primarily the result of escalating subscription prices, compounded at an average 6 percent annually for journals and databases. The anticipated deficits are exacerbated by increasing costs in the Libraries' operations budget and thus a decline in its operational reserves. Historically, the Libraries transferred salaries/benefits savings or other unspent funds to the resource access budget at the end of each fiscal year, but those remaining funds have dramatically decreased.

As projected, rapidly growing deficits in the resource access budget due to years of annual vendor price increases consistently above the Consumer Price Index has resulted in serious consequences for the university. It is necessary to reduce the costs of providing scholarly resources to the university community in one or more of the following ways: (1) cancel subscriptions to select print and/or electronic journals and databases; (2) spend less on one-time purchases; (3) heavier reliance on purchases of individual full-text articles instead of journal subscriptions; and (4) heavier reliance on Summit and other interlibrary loan systems instead of acquisitions. From among the four scenarios listed above and in light of severe budget pressures, the task force is charged with recommending broad principles or criteria to guide the Libraries in selecting a reasonable form of access to desired scholarly resources.

Deliverables and Timeline:

The task force is asked to write an advisory report that addresses the charge and provides recommendations for cuts of 15 percent in FY16 and 10 percent in both FY17 and FY18 to the resource access budget. Recommendations should seek to minimize to the extent possible negative impacts on Western undergraduate and graduate education as well as faculty recruitment, retention, and research. Progress reports are due to the Dean of Libraries and the Senate Library Committee on December 1, 2015, and February 1, 2016; the final report is due on March 1, 2016.