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Library Funding

USM Faculty Senate

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FS Resolution to Affirm and Request Sustained Funding for University Libraries
April 1, 2011

WHEREAS, The University of Southern Mississippi is a doctoral research extensive institution and confers the doctorate degree;

WHEREAS, surveys conducted to determine user satisfaction with University Libraries collections for the past 10 years have suggested the need for increased funding to support the needs of faculty and graduate research;

WHEREAS, library budgets have been eroding for the past ten years due to budget cuts and inflation in costs of materials, especially journals and electronic resources. While the materials budget remains fairly flat, fewer materials can actually be purchased, and journals are cancelled or electronic access is reduced due to embargo policies;

WHEREAS, the current University Libraries materials budget for academic study and research is less than 3 million dollars for monographic, serial materials and electronic online resources;

WHEREAS, The University of Southern Mississippi offers an increasing number of distance education online academic programs, electronic resources purchased and managed by the Libraries are critical to the curriculum for these programs. Electronic online resources typically replace the printed format and are leased annually; discontinuations of any electronic resource can mean loss of access to past and current information;

WHEREAS, a sustained increase of 5% of the current materials budget each year would enable the Libraries to retain the same level of current electronic resources;

WHEREAS, a sustained annual increase of 10% in library materials funding over five years or 1.2M would improve the position of University Libraries to meet minimum membership criteria in the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL), to attain research library status.

The Faculty Senate of The University of Southern Mississippi resolves and affirms that:

1. The University of Southern Mississippi administration support increased and sustained funding for University Libraries materials to enhance resources for scholarly research by faculty and graduate students.
2. In order to better communicate the needs of the library and to find future efficiencies that may allow the Libraries to grow, even in economically challenging times, we request that the Faculty Senate appoint a representative to the Library Advisory Committee.
3. The Faculty Senate supports the University Libraries' long term goal to achieve ASERL membership.

APPENDIX A

ASERL Membership Criteria

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) is organized exclusively for educational purposes, which are concentrated on:

- the development of research quality library resources and services
- inter-institutional sharing of resources and services for mutual benefit
- promotion of research on library subjects
- reduction of unnecessary and wasteful duplication of research materials
- sponsorship of educational opportunities for librarian and other library -related institutional officials
- dissemination of professional information among librarians and exchange of ideas, concepts, and programs
- establishment of an interface with professional, governmental, commercial, accrediting, and other agencies impacting on library development and operation
- continued improvement of graduate and professional education in southeastern institutions
- provision of expanded information and research capability for governmental agencies.

Membership in ASERL is limited to libraries of educational institutions with doctoral degree programs or of governmental agencies in the southeastern region of the United States of America (i.e., Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia).

All ASERL members must meet the membership criteria below and whose parent institution/agency qualifies under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or as a governmental agency. Each member library is entitled to one representative to business meetings and one vote on Association business matters. The representative shall be the member library's Director (Chief Librarian, Dean) or his/her designee. The representative shall have full privileges of the floor. Member libraries may have as many observers present at

meetings as desired and deemed necessary, but only one representative and one vote. Observers may be granted floor privileges at the discretion of the Chairman or the membership present.

Consonant with the purposes of the Association and the requirements of research and graduate education, only those libraries holding and maintaining significant research collections and services will be considered for membership. Specific criteria designed to quantify, insofar as possible, qualitative measures will be applied both to members and prospective members to assess maintenance of effort and entry qualifications. The membership has approved the criteria, and authority to make changes in the criteria shall reside in the membership. A two thirds majority of the total membership is required to alter the criteria. Currently, the criteria include:

1. Location in the Southeastern region.
2. Adherence to purposes and goals of the Association.
3. Qualification of the parent institution under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or as a governmental agency.
4. Educational institutions must confer the doctorate degree in one or more fields and spend on their libraries annually a minimum of one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) the mean expenditure of member educational institution libraries for total library expenditures derived after eliminating the single highest and the single lowest value. Applicants for new membership in the Association must meet this threshold for the three years prior to the date of application. (Please contact ASERL's Executive Director for current expenditure data.)
5. Because the programs and services of the State Library Agencies (SLAs) complement and support the mission and services of research libraries in the Southeast, all state library agencies of the states covered by ASERL shall be eligible for ASERL membership, contingent upon payment of annual dues. Federal libraries must support comprehensive collections or research materials on a permanent basis.

ASERL Membership Statistics at: <http://www.aserl.org/stat/2009/aserl-2009-stats.htm>