

**Proposition:** 18-11/12 A Memorial In Support of Increased Funding for the Las Cruces Campus Library's Materials Budget

**Date Submitted:** 3/26/2012

**Sponsors:** Liz Miller, Library; Gary Rayson, A&S; Julia Barello, A&S; Tim Ketelaar, A&S; Deborah McCormick, DACC; Stuart Munson-McGee, ACES; Ben Taylor, Business

**Proposed Committee Assignment:** Long Range Planning

**Assigned Committee:** Long Range Planning

**Title:** Increased Funds Allocation to the Library for Collection Development/Maintenance

**Proposal:**

We ask University Administration to provide increased funding for the Las Cruces Campus Library's base materials budget. We also ask for additional ongoing funds so the Library can acquire materials to support new doctoral programs and research in emerging research areas and STEM disciplines.

We also ask University Administration to create an ongoing funding structure whereby the Las Cruces campus Library's base budget for materials can be increased annually to keep up with library materials inflation, which continues to increase at a rate higher than the Consumer Price Index.

We suggest two possible funding sources:

- Re-instate the policy of providing 5.0% of overhead funds generated from competitive externally funded research and scholarly activities throughout the University.
- A student Library fee of \$1 per credit hour

We further request that University Administration establish a Library Council to advise the Library and encourage transparency in the disbursement of these additional funds.

**Rationale:**

The Library is often referred to as the heart of the University.

For the past decade, the Las Cruces campus Library's base budget for materials has not seen any substantial increase, and therefore has not been able to keep up with library materials price inflation. This means that the Library has had to repeatedly cut serial subscriptions in order to stay within its budget.

In addition, the Library has not received funding increases to acquire badly needed materials to support new Ph.D. programs that have been approved and initiated since 2005.

Further, the Library has not been able to support the needs of NMSU researchers, especially in emerging research areas and STEM disciplines, but also in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. This places NMSU faculty and students at a competitive disadvantage with our peers and nationally.

The Library needs a mechanism to offset materials price inflation on an annual basis.

Previous efforts to address this on-going problem resulted in the generation of a policy whereby 5.0% of funds generated by grants and contracts to the University (i.e., overhead funds) went to the Library's materials budget. Sometime later, an administrative decision was made to decrease this allocation to 2.5%. Current proposed reductions in the Library collection require that this reduction be re-evaluated.

A modest student fee of \$1 per credit hour is suggested as a further source of revenue for the Library.

**Whereas**, the faculty senate recognizes the importance of the Las Cruces campus's Library to NMSU's core missions of teaching and research,

And **whereas**, the Library's materials base budget has not increased for a decade and therefore has not been able to keep up with library materials inflation,

And **whereas**, the Library has not received additional funding to purchase materials to support new Ph.D. programs approved by the University and the Department of Higher Education,

And **whereas**, the Library's limited materials budget has not allowed it to support the needs of NMSU researchers, especially in emerging research areas and STEM disciplines,

And **whereas**, until the Library receives ongoing increases to its materials budget to offset library materials inflation, it will have to enact annual cuts to its serials, monographs and electronic database budgets,

And **whereas**, the number of serials and monographs in either electronic or print format has decreased each year because of the lack of any increase in base funding and the reduction in research overhead given to the Library,

And **whereas**, the increasingly smaller percentage of money devoted to the purchase of monographs has devastated instruction and research not only in the humanities and fine arts but also in the STEM disciplines,

**Be it resolved** that the NMSU Faculty Senate requests that NMSU Central Administration provide additional funding for the Las Cruces campus Library's base materials budget to offset inflationary pressures and enable enhancement in both scholarly journal subscriptions and monograph purchases (re: the Library's March 1 memo to the Provost). To this end, the Faculty Senate requests the percentage of indirect costs allocated to the Library for collection maintenance and enhancement be returned to 5%. Because these funds are collected through externally funded grants and contracts for facilities and administration (a.k.a. overhead funds), their application to maintenance of the library holdings is appropriate. In conjunction with the requested funds allocation, the Faculty Senate recommends the formation of a Library Council with representation from various campus constituencies, as a means of enhancing an environment of transparency throughout the University. It is also recommended that a request be made to the Student Fee Review Board to initiate a modest student fee (e.g., \$1 per credit hour).