

Resolution from Agenda Committee on branch libraries

Introduction: The Information Access Working Group started meeting in December of 2014. The Chair of the Senate's Library Committee has been a participating member. The working group was tasked with

1. studying how to efficiently provide access to information within our fiscal and space challenges, and
2. identifying and recommending specific teaching and research services which will become a part of the consolidated science resource center under development within Dimond Library and within the branch libraries.

The working group is scheduled to complete its final recommendations after its May 8, 2015 meeting. This is after the senate adjourns for the summer. Because of the timing of the recommendations and the hiatus of the senate, the Agenda Committee deems it prudent to present a motion that states our position on an important aspect of this work and one that has been under consideration in the senate for over a year—the role of the branch libraries in the academic program of our university.

Therefore, the Agenda Committee moves the following Resolution on Branch Libraries:

WHEREAS, the University Library system is central to all aspects of the academic mission including teaching, research/scholarship, and outreach; and

WHEREAS, UNH branch libraries provide important discipline-based services in support of the academic mission of the University, therefore, the closure, consolidation or movement of any branch library can profoundly impact the academic mission of those disciplines as well as all disciplines through the reallocation of scarce collection space in the University Library System; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate is the legislative body that reviews and develops policies concerned with the academic mission of the University and, has a responsibility for shared governance, and must therefore be concerned with any actions that impact the academic mission;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that no UNH branch library should be closed, consolidated or moved without full consideration by, and consultation with, the Faculty Senate as manifested through a vote of the Faculty Senate.