

UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XX-M11
on level funding of Library acquisitions budget

1. Motion presenter: Todd DeMitchell, Senate Library Committee chair

2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 3/21/2016

3. Rationale: In the Library Committee's report to the Senate on February 15, 2016, several challenges were identified. These challenges remain and may be magnified in coming years. The journal collections costs inflate at an average of 5% a year. Because approximately 92% of the collections budget is encumbered through contracts with journal providers, the ability to respond to increases in costs is limited if the budget for the collections does not out pace or, at least keep pace with inflation.

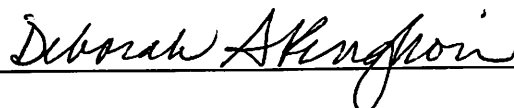
Despite efforts on the part of library faculty and staff to mitigate the impact of these increases, they continue. Nationally, the increased cost of journals over several decades is larger than the consumer price index by a factor of nearly four to one. The library budget does not keep pace despite the efforts of the library faculty and staff.

We express our deep concern about the level funding of the acquisitions budget. It is a pattern that cannot be sustained without significant harm to the library and our teaching and research missions. The disparate impact on disciplines and programs as a result of level funding and the binding contracts, which restricts response options places some of the disciplines, and particularly the humanities, at a disadvantage in garnering needed resources.

Given the special charge and responsibility of the Faculty Senate for the academic programs of UNH, we must advocate for the appropriate support of this fundamental and shared special resource that binds all of us in common pursuits. A strong university needs a strong library to serve as a hub for its central and common pursuits.

4. Motion: The faculty senate moves to endorse the Library Committee's report, and to strongly urge the provost to take a close look at the negative impact of level funding for the Library acquisitions budget on the academic mission of the university.

5. Senate action: The Senate voted to suspend the rules in order to vote on this motion on the day it was presented. The senate chair called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

6. Senate chair's signature: 

Forwarded to the following on April 29, 2016

President Mark Huddleston

Interim Provost P.T. Vasudevan

Mary Rhiel, Interim Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

All college deans

All department chairs