# UM Faculty Senate Resolution to Support the Mansfield Library

University of Montana Faculty Senate Resolution to Support the Mansfield Library

Whereas, Mansfield Library collections and services are essential components of the University of Montana (UM) infrastructure for research and creative scholarship, and are also vital for a strong teaching and learning environment; and,

Whereas, the University of Montana community at-large including concerned citizens, faculty, staff and students value and utilize the Mansfield Library; and,

Whereas, the Mansfield Library is a unique university department with faculty and staff that directly support every major program on campus; and,

Whereas, the Mansfield Library has undergone a 33% collection budget reduction over the last five years with a 15% cut in fiscal year 2018 alone; and,

Whereas, the Mansfield Library, in response to an administration directive, has proposed cancelation of resources that will have a profound, negative impact on student recruitment and retention; and severely limit the research, scholarship and productivity of faculty, students, and staff; and,

Whereas, the UM Graduate Professional Student Association (GPSA) “deems the resources which the proposed cancelations will impact as essential to completion of member’s theses and research projects”; and,

Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) has passed a companion document to this resolution that the UM faculty fully support;

Therefore, be it resolved that UM Faculty request the UM Administration reconsider the proposed cuts to the library budget; and recommend a budgeting process where the library and administration determine a funding level that sustains the library at a level that meets essential campus and community services; and, the administration, the library, and University Library Committee should lead an effort to devise strategies for innovative means to reduce or replace exceptionally costly but essential subscription services.

cc: Sheila M. Stearns, President, University of Montana; and, Rosi Keller, Interim Vice President of Administration and Finance; Beverly Edmond, Interim Provost; Shali Zhang, Dean, Mansfield Library; Braden Fitzgerald, ASUM President; and Maria Mangold, Staff Senate Chair;  Commissioner Clayton Christian, and BOR Chair Fran Albrecht.