

University of Montana Faculty Senate Resolution to Support the Mansfield Library

Whereas, Mansfield Library personnel, services, spaces, and collections are critical infrastructure for supporting faculty and student teaching, learning, research, and scholarship; 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 total budget has been reduced by 33% (from \$7.5 million to \$5 million) over the last eight years (FY12 to FY21); and,

Whereas, total numbers of Mansfield Library personnel have been reduced by 49% (from 74 to 38), including a reduction of faculty librarians by 50%, over the last eight years (FY13 to FY21); and,

Whereas, the library collection budget has been reduced by 44% (from over \$5 million to \$2.8 million) over the last eight years (FY13 to FY21); and,

Whereas, the annual inflationary increases have increased the cost of critical electronic journal and database resources over the same eight-year period; and,

Whereas, the budget reductions combined with cost increases have resulted in 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 reductions in the Mansfield Library budget and staffing have come during a period of increases in extramural research funding, reaching the record level of greater than \$110M in FY20; and dependent in part upon timely if not immediate access to published scholarship, via the library portal, to support such grantsmanship, and;

Whereas, the Mansfield Library has been under interim leadership for more than two years;

Therefore, be it resolved that the UM Faculty request the UM Administration:

- a) work to establish a more stable budget and budget planning process for the Mansfield Library, including funds from F&A-funds generated through record research funding, that will sustain the necessary collections and personnel to support instructional, research, and scholarship activities commensurate with a flagship state university, and

- b) establish permanent leadership for the Mansfield Library and charge that leadership to work with the UM Foundation to solicit external funding to sustain collections and facilities.
- c) cooperate with grant-supported faculty, who will, hereafter, explicitly include support for the Mansfield Library as a direct cost on grants and/or explicitly included as part of the F&A pool, as permissible by the granting body.

cc: Seth Bodnar, President, University of Montana; Paul Lasiter, Vice President of Administration and Finance; Reed Humphrey, Acting Provost; Barry Brown, Interim Dean, Mansfield Library; Taylor Gregory, ASUM President; Charity Atteberry, Staff Senate Chair; Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian; and BOR Chair Casey Lozar.