UC RIVERSIDE

Academic Senate

October 23, 2020

To: Jason Stajich, Chair
        Riverside Division

From: Alejandra Dubcovsky, Chair
        Committee on Library and Information Technology

Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Curtailment Program

 The Committee on Library and Information Technology initiated an initial discussion of Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Curtailment Program at their October 15, 2020 meeting and cited several concerns relating to the Committee's charge of Library and Information Technology.

Report was very vague and unclear making it both hard to read and evaluate. It suggested adding a number of curtailment days to select Staff members (with the number determined by a salary tier) and a reduction of salary for the Faculty (again with the percentage determined by a salary tier). There were no specifications regarding these salary tiers or how they would be determined. We needed some more information on what an "equivalent reduction" would mean for academic-year faculty (i.e. what does a 5-day curtailment equate to in terms of salary %). Moreover, it is not clear from the report how some of these measures actually save money. The expected savings from the plan should be presented as a fraction of the total budget-deficit.

The proposal for Staff curtailment dates would affect each UC campus differently. The UCR Library is deeply understaffed, with over 35% of its subject field librarian positions already vacant. Between 2009 and 2012, the Library permanently lost 52 of its 155 positions. Collection budget was reduced from $6.6 million to $4.15 million per year. It continues to lag behind the other UC libraries, even though it provides resources to more students. The library staff has worked tireless to meet the needs and demands of the university with increasingly shrinking staff and resources. These cuts would further exacerbate the inequalities among the UC's.

	Berkeley	Davis	Irvine	UCLA	Riverside	San Diego	Santa Barbara

Professional Staff	258	76	69	174	42	130	43
Support Staff	114	58	106	201	53	113	94
Student Assistants	132	29	28	101	22	47	41
Total Materials Expenditures	$21,588,999	$8,860,434	$9,093,617	$18,479,203	$4,166,138	$8,024,138	$6,044,229
Total Library Expenditures (minus benefits)	$59,041,585	$22,127,010	$22,727,972	$59,149,679	$13,016,768	$30,672,107	$20,508,706

Graph Credit to Steven Mandeville-Gamble, University Librarian

Similarly, UCR Technology Information is deeply understaffed and overworked. when compared to other UC's. In a Central IT Staffing Comparison of ratios of ladder-rank faculty + students to central IT staff, by campus, it showed 83/1 (UC Santa Cruz), 97/1 (UC Irvine), and 181 (UC Riverside). UCR is already requiring IT staff to serve twice as many students per staff member.

The point is that UC Riverside (especially compared to other UC's and compared to other Libraries and IT Services) is stretched very thin. These proposed cuts and furloughs (which is what these curtailments truly are) would deeply affect already overburdened services within an already overtaxed institution.