

Senate Council Meeting
March 5, 2007

Resolution from Senate's Library Committee

The Senate library committee, in accordance with its charge, has been discussing how best to support the library system as it seeks to fulfill its vital University-wide role within the University's Top 20 plan. In these deliberations, the University Senate Library Committee notes that the Provost's strategic plan states that "The hallmark of a Top 20 public university is an unwavering and across-the-board commitment to excellence, with a considerable number of programs ranked among the best in the United States. ... UK's ability to reach this level of consistent excellence will require the significant advance of **every aspect** of the University. (emphasis added)". The Senate Library Committee proposes a resolution to be submitted to the Senate for approval that expresses broad faculty support for the library system in fulfilling its mission. We conclude that it is imperative that a Top 20 University has a Top 20 Library and that such a library would be characterized in part by:

- Monographic and journal collections that are comparable to, or superior to, those of our benchmark institutions;
- State-of-the-art storage facilities that can accommodate the continued growth of, and ease of use of, these expanded collections;
- Additional library faculty and staff to meet the increased demands of the Top 20 plan, especially in the area of serving an increasing undergraduate population, and the revised University Studies Program (USP) learning outcome goals;
- Appropriate start up funds for supporting new faculty lines that are being implemented and the research areas they represent.

Given the mandate presented to every unit to strive for excellence, the system-wide responsibilities of the University Libraries, and the current strategic planning process that will set resource allocation priorities, the Senate Library Committee asks the Senate Council to bring the following resolution to the University Senate for consideration:

Resolution

The University's strategic plan states that "The hallmark of a Top 20 public university is an unwavering and across-the-board commitment to excellence, with a considerable number of programs ranked among the best in the United States. ... UK's ability to reach this level of consistent excellence will require the significant advance of every aspect of the University". We ask the University Faculty Senate to consider that:

Whereas the University Libraries serves the entire University community as well as all the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

Whereas a Top 20 University must have a Top 20 Library; and

Whereas the University of Kentucky libraries are behind benchmark institutions in terms of many important measures, including both physical and human resources; and

Whereas the physical facilities of the library system are at capacity; and

Whereas the Top 20 business plans calls for significant increases in the number of undergraduate students and faculty; and

Whereas the Provost's UK-LEAP whitepaper on the revision of the USP calls for learning outcomes in the area of information literacy across the curriculum, in which the library must play a vital and fully integrated role; and

Whereas the University must meet its further obligation to promote information literacy across the entire academic experience encompassing graduate, postgraduate, and faculty studies;

Be it resolved that the University of Kentucky Faculty Senate endorses the following statements of support for the University Libraries, and that this endorsement be forwarded to the President and the Provost as they consider the priorities implicit in the current strategic planning process:

The University Senate supports the assertion that to be a Top 20 Institution, the University of Kentucky must have, and invest in, a Top 20 library, as measured by criteria agreed to by the Provost and the Dean of Libraries; and given the vital and holistic role of the libraries in achieving University goals and the acknowledgement in the Top 20 business plan that further investment in facilities is a prerequisite to accomplishing these goals, the University Faculty Senate recommends that in the current strategic planning process, the President and Provost explicitly consider:

- a. That the need for further facilities investment also extends to the library system, specifically as pertains to the implementation of a Science/Engineering library to be housed in the King Addition; the construction of an off-site state-of-the-art storage facility to house library materials; and the collection, space, and personnel needed to fully support both new faculty and an expanding undergraduate student population.
- b. That the library will need additional personnel 1) to support the needs of increasing numbers of teaching faculty and undergraduate students, and 2) to fulfill its instructional mission across the entire academic experience and moreso, to fully participate in the information literacy goals for undergraduate education as described in the UK-LEAP white paper.