

**Proposition: 10-13/14:** A Proposal for a Mechanism to Enhance and Ensure the Long-Term Sustainability of the Library's Base Materials Budget

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**Proposed Committee Assignment:** Scholastic Affairs

**Assigned Committee:** Long Range Planning

**Title:** Proposal for a Mechanism to Enhance and Ensure the Long-Term Sustainability of the NMSU Library's Base Materials Budget

**Proposal:**

We ask University Administration to institute a sustainable mechanism to resolve the Las Cruces Campus Library's ongoing materials budget crisis.

To accomplish this, we propose the following items be adopted in the administrative budget:

- Increase the Library's share of IDC (research overhead) funds from 2.5% to 6.0% to support areas of active research, and that the share of IDC funds sent to the colleges not be decreased. The dollar amount of this item varies annually but based on recent years, this will increase library funding by about \$300,000 per year.
- Support the Student Advisory Fee Board's recommendation by establishing a student library fee of \$2 per credit hour, to go into effect fall 2014. Based on recent enrollment, this would raise approximately \$600,000 that would be allocated among materials, equipment, services, and furniture.
- Accommodate annual automatic increases to the Library's materials budget equal to library industry price inflation forecasts, or simply 7% per year.

**Rationale:**

The Library is a vital part of NMSU's research and teaching mission. Faculty and staff in all disciplines rely on the Library to provide access to databases, journal articles, books, and other scholarly resources. Students rely on the Library to provide authoritative, current information so they can successfully complete research papers and other assignments. For the past decade, the Las Cruces campus Library's base budget for materials has not seen any substantial increase, and therefore has not been able to keep up with sizeable increases in library materials prices. This means that the Library has had to repeatedly cut serial subscriptions and radically reduce

acquisitions of monographs in order to stay within its budget. This erosion of buying power in the Library's materials budget places NMSU faculty and students at a competitive disadvantage with our peers and nationally.

**At this point, the materials budget is in crisis, placing the Library's ability to support NMSU's research mission in jeopardy.**

The Library needs a sustainable, ongoing mechanism to offset materials price increases.

Previous efforts to address this on-going problem resulted in the generation of a policy whereby 5.0% of funds generated by grants and contracts to the University (i.e., overhead funds) went to the Library's materials budget. Around 2007, an administrative decision was made to decrease this allocation to 2.5%. We request that the Library's share of IDC monies be increased to 6.0%.

In addition, we request approval of a student library fee.

This is the third memorial about Library funding passed by the Faculty Senate in as many years. In 2012, the Dean of the Library requested an increase in continuing funds for three purposes:

1. to offset inflation of Library materials prices of about 7% for three years;
2. to build collections to support doctoral programs approved since 2005; and
3. to purchase additional research level databases for STEM disciplines.

Campus Administration responded with one-time funds to help offset inflation for one fiscal year.

Following 2013's memorial, a review of the Library's budget was conducted by NMSU's Office of Administration and Finance. The review found that the Library's materials budget needs ongoing support as well as a mechanism for long-term sustainability.

The Library's projected materials budget shortfall for FY15 is approximately \$518,000.

**Whereas**, the Las Cruces campus's Library is essential to NMSU's core missions of teaching and research,

And **whereas**, the Library's materials base budget has not substantially increased for over a decade and, therefore, has not been able to keep up with substantial library materials price increases,

And **whereas**, the number of serials and monographs in the Library's collection has decreased each year because of the lack of any increase in base funding and the reduction in research

overhead given to the Library,

**Be it resolved** that the NMSU Faculty Senate requests that NMSU Central Administration provide continuing additional funding for the Las Cruces campus Library's base materials budget to offset inflationary pressures. To this end, the Faculty Senate requests that the NMSU Administration do the following:

Adopt the following items in the administrative budget:

- Increase the Library's share of IDC (research overhead) funds from 2.5% to 6.0% to support areas of active research and that the share of IDC funds sent to the colleges not be decreased. The dollar amount of this item varies annually but based on recent years, this will increase library funding by about \$300,000 per year.
- Support the Student Advisory Fee Board's recommendation by establishing a student library fee of \$2 per credit hour, to go into effect fall 2014. Based on recent enrollment, this would raise approximately \$600,000 that would be allocated among materials, equipment, services, and furniture.
- Accommodate annual automatic increases to the Library's materials budget equal to library industry price inflation forecasts, or simply 7% per year.