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Library Budget Comparison to Peer Institutions

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Library Budget Comparison to Peer Institutions

Submitted by Greg Harwood

10/31/2011

Discussion:

Provide informational data concerning the University Library budget and its relationship to similar data from peer and aspirational institutions.

Rationale:

The Library Committee would like to provide this data and have a short time for questions, if any, in response to the Senate's charge in a 2008 vote asking the Committee to provide this information to the full Senate annually.

Response:

9. A Request for Discussion from the Library Committee: Greg Harwood (CLASS): Pursuant to a senate motion in Fall 2008, the Library Committee supplied information to the Faculty Senate on the Library budget and how it relates to the student populations of our Library in relationship to other designated peer and aspirational institutions. Moderator Krug noted that the full report was in the Librarian's Report.

Robert Costomiris (CLASS) was struck by the fact that Georgia Southern is beneath Valdosta State, which is a much smaller institution with a less robust research program than this institution. He found our numbers to be sad.

Bede Mitchell (Dean, University Library) said that while we are clearly not where we would like to be in relationship to these other libraries, it is important to know that when we first started reporting these data that figure was \$224 per FTE student; it is now up to \$278 per FTE student.

Costomiris (CLASS) asked when \$224 was in place. Dean Mitchell noted that was 2008.

Mark Welford (COST) said that we keep getting asked to streamline the journals that we want and the amount of electronic access to journals, and yet if we're going to pursue more research that is just the kind of thing that we need. While he saw that the numbers have increased, as a faculty member he has fewer resources available to conduct research, and that's very distressing if we are to do more research and be more productive. It is the opposite of what we need.

Provost Moore agreed and said that one of our major missions will be to develop a longterm plan on how we actually go about implementing a move toward greater research presence. That is going to take investment from faculty, it's going to take investment infrastructure, it will take investment in support materials and library periodicals, etc. So we have a lot of work to do before we can move toward our goal.

Harwood (CLASS) added that the Library Committee were impressed with the creative ways the Library has tried and get the biggest bang out of their little buck, such as trying to pay ahead for subscriptions before the prices go up. They have been very diligent about trying to maximize the resources that they have.

Attachment: [Library Peer Institutions Comparisons](#)