



April 9, 2024

Maximilian Auffhammer, Chair  
Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate  
*Sent via electronic mail*

**Re: Library funding**

Dear Max,

We write in response to your letter, sent on behalf of the Divisional Council (DIVCO), of February 23, 2024. In that letter, following a recommendation of the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA), you asked that the campus commit to \$4.2 million of additional funding for the University Library over the next two years (*i.e.*, fiscal year [FY] 25 and FY 26). After review and based on some new funding sources, the campus will be able to provide an additional \$4.2 million over the next two years. The bulk of this new funding will be from a campus decision to earmark, on an ongoing basis, \$1.969 million of new funding that we will now receive annually from the UC Office of President to compensate us for our expenditures at the North Regional Library Facility (NRLF) to the Library, as described below.

As you may know, the campus has been providing funding to cover the operating expenses of the NRLF. Given that the NRLF is a shared resource of the UC system, we have long argued that the Office of the President should contribute. We have, at last, prevailed and the Office of the President will, starting in FY 25, contribute \$2.8 million annually. Of that, \$831,000 will cover expenses now paid by the College of Engineering. Rather than taking the remaining \$1.969 million as compensation for what the campus *already* provides the Library to pay for NRLF operations, we will, instead, treat the money as new money for the Library. We will continue to do so as long as the Office of the President transfers those funds to us.

Over the next two fiscal years, that new funding will provide \$3.938 million. For FY 25, the campus will provide an additional \$262,000, bringing the total for FY 25 and FY 26 to the requested \$4.2 million. This \$4.2 million will be on top of any other increase to the Library's budget in those fiscal years.

As CAPRA observed in its letter of November 30, 2023 to you, the budgetary realities faced by the campus—even more stringent than when CAPRA wrote given the subsequent loss of an anticipated 5% increase in state funding—make it challenging to vastly increase spending in any area, even one as important as the Library. That being said, we continue, as part of the Financial Sustainability Initiative, to examine our spending across the campus with an eye toward determining how we can fund our core academic mission at a level that preserves Berkeley's excellence.

If you, DIVCO, or CAPRA have questions about this decision, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Benjamin E. Hermalin  
Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost

Carol T. Christ  
Chancellor

cc: Daniel Feitelberg, Interim Vice Chancellor of Finance and CFO  
Jeffrey MacKie-Mason, University Librarian  
Suzanne Wones, University Librarian (designee)

Chris Stanich, Associate Vice Chancellor of Finance  
Amani Nuru-Jeter, Vice Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate  
J. Miguel Villas-Boas, Chair, CAPRA  
Andrea Lambert-Tan, Assistant Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Chief of Staff  
Working Group on the University Library