NGTS Phase II – Financial Infrastructure Task Group

Executive Summary

The group is putting forth seven recommendations related to business models and processes that we believe could better facilitate the systemwide purchasing and processing in the areas of collections, staff, tools, and services. They are grouped into three categories: centralization approaches, the recharge process, and operational efficiencies. Within each category, we have attempted to prioritize the recommendations, however, some are short term others are much more long term.

Given the time constraints and the need to gather information from ten campuses plus CDL, we realize our cost estimates are not as precise as are really needed to make a fully informed decision. However we were able to document the high cost of the current recharge process that is being used for CDL coinvestments and agree that it should not be replicated in its current form to support other systemwide initiatives.

We recognize that each of the UC campus libraries is distinctive and activity that has savings at one campus might not reflect the same amount or degree of savings at another campus. Not every instance is one in which one size fits all. We have tried to present arguments on both sides of proposals that take into consideration the fiscal and political realities of the University and its constituents.

Centralization Approaches:

1. UC Libraries fund commonly held collections and technical services operations from a central source. System-wide resources and technical services activities common to all campuses would be funded off the top. (HIGH PRIORITY)

2. Positions doing work on behalf of system-wide collections and technical services based at a campus need consistent and stable funding, and should be granted terms of employment consistent with their campus-funded peers. (HIGH PRIORITY)

3. Tools and services used by CDL and the campuses to support collections and technical services, with the exception of campus-based OCLC accounts) should be funded and negotiated and acquired centrally. (MEDIUM PRIORITY)

The Recharge Process

4. A. Move to a deposit account model to reduce the number of recharges processed by CDL Acquisitions and the campuses. (HIGH PRIORITY)

B. Establish a CDL Acquisitions “pass through” account at UCOP, that will allow CDL Acquisitions Staff to process campus coinvests – reducing the need to send out and receive recharges for specific resources. (MEDIUM PRIORITY)

5. Establish a secure web site to allow campus representatives and CDL to see CDL invoice and recharge activity and supply account strings for recharges in real time. (HIGH PRIORTY)

Operational Efficiencies

6. Campuses should be encouraged to make better use of campus procurement cards, whenever possible, to reduce the overhead associated with paying invoices and cutting checks. (MEDIUM PRIORITY)

7. The University of California needs to develop interoperability between campus financial systems that allow inter-campus transactions to flow more smoothly. (HIGH PRIORITY)

See http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/about/uls/ngts/docs/ngts_phase2.html for priority decisions.