

CREATING A “CASE STATEMENT” FOR INVESTMENT IN LIBRARY FACILITIES **Discussion Item for the March 10, 2005 Meeting of SLASIAC**

SLASIAC Resolution H, endorsed by the Committee in November, 2004, declared that “as the roles and functions of library facilities grow and change as a result of the advent of digital collections and services, it will be necessary to reconsider the principles that have guided UC library space planning and capital budgeting for the last quarter-century or more.” Provost Greenwood, in her response to the letter transmitting SLASIAC’s resolution, observed that “as long as campus decision-makers, preoccupied with accommodating growing enrollments with inadequate capital resources, are asked to view requests for library facilities through the lens of their current understanding of the library program, the facilities component of the library strategy will not make much progress.” The Provost reported that she had charged her senior staff, in collaboration with the Budget Office and in consultation with SLASIAC, the University Librarians, and the Shared Library Facilities Board, to take the lead in:

- Developing a programmatic description of the UC Libraries that documents past and prospective economies achieved through collaborative cost avoidance and leverage, and characterizes anticipated needs for library facilities as a result of these initiatives.
- Preparing clear and compelling presentations of these findings and projections that can serve as the basis for discussion with Chancellors, Vice Chancellors, Budget and Planning Officers, faculty leaders, and other key constituencies.

To meet this charge, and after consultation with the Shared Library Facilities Board (which includes all University Librarians), the Office of Systemwide Library Planning is developing a process to articulate the relationship between the academic program, the emerging information environment, and the library program, and assess the implications for planning of shared library facilities. The product resulting from this process is envisioned as a brief and compelling “case statement” (or perhaps a series of related statements tailored to various constituencies) that describes the key characteristics of the academic/scholarly information environment as of about 2015 and posits the roles and functions of the campus libraries and systemwide library programs and facilities in that environment. The “case statement,” representing the next step after *Systemwide Strategic Directions*, is intended to communicate with, and allow the vision to be shaped by, key University constituencies, and ultimately secure consensual support for the vision and resulting programs. This work, in turn, provides the foundation for immediate and long-range planning of shared library facilities, including development of a program statement for the third phase of the Southern Regional Library Facility. To ensure consideration of SRLF 3 in the University’s 2007-08 – 2011-12 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program, it will be necessary to develop the “case statement” to a level sufficient to begin development of an SRLF 3 program statement in late Fall 2005.

Current challenges in design of a process to develop the Case Statement include:

- Characterizing the information environment in ten years, in view of (a) progress in implementing *Systemwide Strategic Directions*, (b) trends and implementation paths in related University domains (e.g., instructional technology systems and infrastructure, research “cyberinfrastructure”), (c) trends and implementation paths in industry and society generally (e.g., Google Print, student experience and expectations with regard to information technology), and (d) campus and University academic program directions, aspirations, and needs.
- Obtaining faculty and student (especially graduate student) input on these issues.
- Identifying specialized expertise to assist with (a) exploring these issues and (b) formulating succinct and compelling case statements based on the results of the inquiry.
- Producing useful results in the required time frame.