

Resolution in Support of Texas A&M Librarians

Whereas the Texas A&M Library System employs 82 librarians with faculty status, and

Whereas the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University recognizes those librarians are an invaluable resource for faculty and students in research and education, and

Whereas dozens of other institutions of higher education, including Ohio State, Penn State, Iowa State and Louisiana State Universities, have similar faculty-and-tenure-based systems for those serving as librarians, and

Whereas our library is currently ranked 8th among public institutions and 18th among all libraries of the Association of Research Libraries, and

Whereas SACSCOC has recognized the importance of libraries to the educational mission of universities, stating that students, faculty, and staff should “have access to appropriate collections, services, and other library-related resources that support all educational, research, and public service programs wherever they are offered and at the appropriate degree level,” with qualified, effective staff to ensure that happens, and

Whereas a national committee representing the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Association of American Colleges (now the American Association of Colleges and Universities), and the American Association of University Professors, concluded that the “university library performs a unique and indispensable function in the educational process” that will only grow in the future, and

Whereas those same three organizations noted that the role of university librarians requires them to function essentially as part of the faculty and that “functional identity should be recognized by granting of faculty status,” and

Whereas librarians share in the need of all faculty members for academic freedom, and

Whereas the faculty of Texas A&M University is concerned that proposed changes to the status of librarians and the requirement that they align with departments to retain their faculty status will undermine the level of service they currently provide, and

Whereas a decline in the quality of library services would impact research, classroom education and, ultimately, the accreditation of Texas A&M University.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University expresses its deep opposition to plans to reorganize the libraries of this university and its fear that such a reorganization is likely to cause the departure of experienced and valued colleagues, and

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate urgently requests President Banks to reconsider plans to alter the faculty and tenure status of university librarians and to refrain from advancing any other major changes to the library system without the involvement and support of major stakeholders, including students and faculty, especially the librarians.