



May 2, 2023

Updated membership

Jeff MacKie Mason, *University Library* (Co-Chair)
Molly von Houweling, *Law* (Co-Chair)
Marianne Constable, *Rhetoric*
Charles Faulhaber, *Bancroft Library and Spanish & Portuguese*
Andrew Garrett, *Linguistics*
Mark Haiman, *Math*
Panayiotis Papadopoulos, *Mechanical Engineering*
Jo Anne Newyear-Ramirez, *University Library*
Mary Ann Smart, *Music*

RE: Invitation and Charge of a Joint Academic and Administrative Work Group on the University Library

Dear Colleagues,

We write to ask for your participation on a time-bounded work group force being convened to examine the University Library and devise a set of readily deployable recommendations that capitalize on the [2013 Report of the Commission on the Future of the UC Berkeley Library](#). In order to plan for implementing recommendations in fiscal year 2024, we kindly ask that you work quickly and provide your final report by June 30, 2023.

As you are well aware, the campus finds itself in a situation in which our costs are growing at a far faster rate than our revenues, a situation that has existed for some time and that has become more pronounced recently. Our budgetary challenges are especially salient when it comes to the University Library, which lies at the center of both our research and instructional missions. Little else on campus is as fundamental to both faculty and students in their academic pursuits as the Library. While our students may be the heartbeat of our campus, the Library and its satellites are the lungs that breathe life into the innovation, intellect, and discovery born on this campus.

The principal responsibilities of the work group will be: 1) to assess and report on the library's current funding needs in the current environment of digital resources; 2) to identify potential new sources of funding and existing programs from which funding could be shifted. We ask that you collectively respond to these key issues and questions:

- Overview of costs and usage/needs. Usage by various constituencies/units on campus.
- Staff and infrastructure: including suggestions for an alternative approach to student study spaces (inexpensive, within or separate from the library), tracking and projecting the effects of staff attrition in relation to collections expertise.
- Current state of the collections budget: what is and is not being purchased and subscribed to? What are the main resources that Berkeley no longer has access to or may soon lose?

As stated above, we envision the work of this task force to be narrowly focused and conducted within a short time frame. The expectation is that the work could be completed in a series of four to five meetings and ask that the Work Group deliver a report by June 30, 2023. With that in mind, we ask that you be selective in your consultation and draw upon established sources, including the [2013 Report of the Commission on the Future of the UC Berkeley Library](#) and the [2023 UC Berkeley Library's long-term space plan](#), to produce your report.

Further, we are requesting that the University Library's Director of Business and Finance Heidi Hallett serve as a standing consultant to the work group to facilitate providing relevant data to complete the final report.

Please confirm your willingness to participate in this initiative by sending an email to evcp@berkeley.edu. Thank you in advance for your service to the campus, we look forward to your recommendations.

Sincerely,



Benjamin E. Hermalin
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost



Mary Ann Smart
Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate Chair

cc: The Council of Deans
Carol T. Christ, Chancellor
Lisa Alvarez-Cohen, Vice Provost for Academic Planning
Maximilian Auffhammer, Vice Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Andrea Lambert-Tan, Assistant Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff
Chris Yetter, Senior Advisor to the Provost