

Subject: Provost's memo

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Fellow SCL Committee Members:

Provost Katehi has sent the attached memo to Paula Kaufman, who in turn has circulated it to librarians (and possibly others). The memo is consistent with the message we have been hearing from White, Herman, and Katehi: revising how the University functions, making it more efficient, is something that has to happen almost immediately, certainly by 7/1/09. There are several reactions we might have to the current situation:

- Circle the wagons, try to slow down The Deluge. It is quite clear (at least to me) that this is a recipe for disaster.

The budget cuts are coming, and if we don't act proactively, the cuts will be done TO us rather than WITH us.

- Meekly act as requested. This too is disaster. We have scholarly needs, collective insights on what is essential

and where our fields are going, that no one individual can muster, and thus need to shape what is happening.

- Get ahead of this before it gets ahead of us (obviously what I'm hoping we'll do!). This means looking at some

of the ideas proposed, guessing how much those moves would save, and then going back to the Provost with

a suggestion that says, "your proposal would cut \$X and do damage Y. We can save more than \$X and do less

damage if we do _____." While no one has said what \$X might be, my reading of the tea leaves is

that those who want to control their future had better quit playing defense. Whoever shows a way forward that

costs less and serves essential needs can retain some measure of control. Stonewalling is going to be met with

cuts that don't take our insights into account.

The Library will be responsive to Katehi's request one way or another. Our task is to ensure

