

April 1, 2019

Library Consultation Working Group

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Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Office of the Provost, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, as well as the Dean of the University Library, we are pleased that you have accepted our invitation to serve on a Consultation Working Group to review, discuss, and propose changes to both the Main and Undergraduate Libraries. This short-term commitment of approximately three to four months will provide strategic input that addresses collection preservation, enhancements to the Library building and its interior, as well as scholar and student access to collections, tools, services, and programs that support creative inquiry across all areas of campus. This Consultation Working Group will also consider access to and preservation of rare and archival collections, which lack dedicated space to ensure secure, climate-controlled storage, as well as first-rate exhibit and instructional space.

Our call for consultation is timely, as we anticipate the new state administration will launch a request for capital project proposals, for which our historic library should be at the forefront. Considering the antiquated condition of our facilities to house and preserve a pre-eminent collection that has long attracted faculty, students, researchers, and visiting scholars, it is timely opportunity to propose a compelling, but also economical plan that attracts critical funds and ensures access for future generations.

Specifically, that means:

- Reviewing stake-holder surveys and consulting with library experts to consider preservation of and access to collections;
- Reimagining the Main Library building through replacement of the oldest and most problematic five stack additions to also house services and activities, including those now found in the Undergraduate Library, including the Media Commons and large-scale library instructional activities;
- Considering the extent to which parts of the Library interior should be devoted to collections, to library services such as the Scholarly Commons, to readers, and to new activities and services that align with the Library's mission to serve campus, as well as the strategic plan;
- Reviewing the campus strategic plan to ensure alignment of current and proposed library infrastructure;

- Reviewing plans to use the Undergraduate Library building, located underground, as a dedicated and secure home for rare and archival collections in the context of limited funding;
- Considering mechanisms to ensure key stakeholders can provide long-term advice and input into the Library's ongoing planning process.

In summary, collective input on critical improvements to modernize facilities that preserve our world-renowned collections for generations to come are the defining elements of this consultation request. We would greatly appreciate your thoughtful participation in this group that will foster coordination between the many disciplines and units that rely on vibrant Library spaces and collections.

We anticipate that the group will start meeting in early April, based on scheduling availability, and will conclude its work by September. As indicated above, this is a short-term commitment as there is some urgency to complete this work, given the possibility of a capital construction funding program at the state level.

We are very grateful for your leadership on this Consultation Working Group and will follow up very soon with scheduling our first meeting.

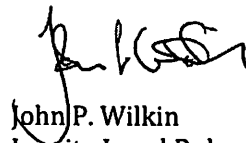
Sincerely,



Andreas C. Cangellaris
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost



Susan A. Martinis
Interim Vice Chancellor for Research



John P. Wilkin
Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian