

Pierce, Jeannette E.

From: Gregory, Rabia
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 12:48 PM
To: MU PROVOST Dept Chairs
Subject: important information for your departments about likely upcoming cuts to library subscriptions and services

Dear Department Chairs:

As Chair of the Campus Library Committee, I am writing to request your assistance in encouraging all faculty, students, and staff in your department to participate in upcoming conversations about likely cuts to periodical and database subscriptions. I want to ensure each academic unit on campus will have the opportunity to make sure their needs are clearly communicated while we develop purchasing and collection priorities for the campus library system.

As you may already be aware, the library system faces a budget shortfall of over \$1,300,000 this year and, although final budget numbers are not yet available, recent projections anticipate an additional \$1,000,000 shortfall in Fiscal Year 2017. The Library Committee is working with campus administration and the Library's staff to identify one-time funding solutions to meet this year's budget shortfall, but there will almost certainly need to be cuts to journal subscriptions, online services such as databases, and book purchasing in the near future. I am committed to ensuring that every member of the campus community will have the opportunity to be involved in the process of determining where we should spend our limited resources.

Unfortunately, the final budget numbers for 2017 may not be available until late April or May, meaning we will have a very short window to gather feedback from the University community before the library must begin renewing or canceling journal and database subscriptions. Because many of us will be traveling when the final budget numbers are available, it is essential that we begin establishing a ranked list of priorities for each department and academic unit during the spring semester so that our librarians will be able to protect resources most essential to our teaching and research.

I ask that you please help me by inviting the faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate majors in your own department to determine which journals, book purchasing areas, and databases absolutely must not be cut. If you have an upcoming faculty meeting, please consider adding this to your agenda. Subject librarians are willing to come to department meetings to explain the process. A list of subject librarians is available here:

<http://library.missouri.edu/contactus/?target=subject-librarians>

We will need have ranked lists from academic programs and units by April 1st, 2016, so that we can make informed decisions when the University's budget situation clarifies.

If you have not already designated a departmental library liaison, you may wish to consider doing so. This person will collect comments and concerns from members of your department and relay them to your subject librarian, then work with the subject librarian to set up purchasing priorities for your specialty. Ideally the person you designate as liaison would also be present in Columbia in the early summer when anticipated budget-driven cuts begin.

Shortly, all members of the campus community will be sent an e-mail message inviting them to provide feedback on the ranked importance of journal titles in two high-cost packages we must renew this year. This will be the first of a series of time-sensitive opportunities this spring and into the Fall semester for us all to be active participants in prioritizing library purchasing. Because these packages contain bundled journals—that is, like your cable television service, the library buys access to a list of journal titles, even if we only want some of the items on the list—we cannot simply set a price limit and then cut titles until we hit it. Our negotiating team will need as much input as possible about which titles are essential before they begin this process. The negotiation process will begin over the summer and probably conclude in the fall semester. Please encourage your departments to participate in this survey so that our librarians can win the best possible deal for this campus.

If you have any questions about this process or if you would like to share your suggestions or concerns with the campus library committee, feel free to get in touch. You may also contact representatives of the library committee directly. The full list of members is available here: <http://committees.missouri.edu/library/members.php>

Thank you for assisting me in explaining the importance of this situation to your department.

Best wishes,

-Rabia

~*~*~*~*~

Rabia Gregory
Associate Professor
Department of Religious Studies
Affiliated Faculty, Department of Women's and Gender Studies
University of Missouri
221 F Arts & Science Bldg
Columbia, MO 65211
phone: (573) 882-5505
Fax: (573) 882-4495