

March 31, 2021

Dear University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senators,

The Senate Committee on the Library (SCL) has voted No on Senate Resolution RS.21.03, *Resolution Regarding the Proposed Library Renovations*.

We acknowledge committee members Ralph Mathisen, James Brennan, and the authors of the Humanities Faculty Resolution for their desire to ensure the success of the Library Renovation Project. We appreciate the significant amount of time that the Humanities faculty has spent on crafting this resolution, and we understand their concern about funding for the project's completion. However, the campus has indicated its dedication and support by making the Library Renovation Project a top capital priority.

The Senate Library Committee has monitored the development of this plan since its inception. Throughout 2018, 2019, and in spring 2020, we met with John Wilkin, Dean of Libraries; members of the Provost-appointed Library Consultation Working Group (LCWG), including David Chasco, past Director of the School of Architecture and chair of LCWG; members of the University Library Working Groups dedicated to this project; and students and faculty from departments across the campus.

We have reviewed specifications for the staged renovation of the Main and Undergraduate Libraries. We received updates about student and faculty perspectives from the town halls, salons, and various meetings that were sponsored to gather input from campus units. We adjourned the 2019-2020 session satisfied with the knowledge that a myriad of stakeholders and architects had thoroughly reviewed plans for the Library Renovation Project, and that it was comprehensive, sound, and ready to deploy.

The members of the current Library Committee have met to discuss the concerns of the Humanities faculty, and we appreciate their perspectives and advocacy in pursuit of a successful project. This resolution claims that its authors' wishes have not been heard—they have. Unfortunately what they want is not possible given the age and structure of the library buildings. Know that it is challenging to understand and appreciate a colleague's point of view while still voting not to support it.

The investment and planning for the Library Renovation Project has been too thorough and inclusive to abandon in pursuit of a new plan. Throughout the past three years, architectural firms have assessed the buildings' structures and created a practical and innovative design that will transform the Main and Undergraduate Libraries into spaces that can sustain the collections and support the research, scholarly, and community needs of the entire campus for decades to come. It is time to accept their wisdom and expertise and create a library for our future.

Senate Committee on the Library

Pia M. Hunter, Chair  
John Boesche  
James Brennan  
Phillip Cole  
Isabel Diaz

Marian Ekweogwu  
Jon Hale  
Ralph W. Mathisen  
Hedda Meadan-Kaplansky  
Mimi Nguyen

Abigail Sewall  
John M. Toenjjes  
Venkat Venkateswaran  
John P. Wilkin, *ex-officio*