

APPROVED BY SENATE

02/10/2025

LB.25.02

February 10, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY

(Final; Action)

LB.25.02 Resolution on CARLI Statement on the Importance of Librarians in Academic Libraries

WHEREAS in September 2024 the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois, also known as CARLI, issued a “Statement on the Importance of Librarians in Academic Libraries”;

WHEREAS this statement cited several crucial roles that Academic Librarians play in our university communities, including serving the interdisciplinary teaching and research mission of higher education institutions; connecting students and faculty with resources and services; being on the frontlines of the information revolution; contacting a broad spectrum of patrons with needs ranging from deficits in basic information skills to a deep exploration of niche subject areas and the communication of innovative ideas;

WHEREAS this statement likewise pointed out the crucial role that our libraries play in our university communities, including making resource discovery and access seamless for students and faculty; serving as critical supports for academic success, career preparations, and student well-being; and developing resources, systems, services and space that reflect the radical and transformative changes which are occurring in higher education and in society;

WHEREAS this statement cited the threats that our libraries currently are confronting in the face of a growing national climate of budget cuts, mergers, and closures in higher education, for colleges and their libraries;

WHEREAS since last May these threats have been manifested in the laying off of all nine librarians at Western Illinois University and four librarians at Columbia College Chicago;

WHEREAS this is an issue that affects all academic libraries in Illinois, including the library at UIUC;

WHEREAS our library plays a crucial role in the furthering of the pursuit of the educational, scholarly, and intellectual development of our students, staff, and faculty;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Senate of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign endorse the sentiments embodied in the CARLI “Statement on the Importance of Librarians in Academic Libraries”;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate endorse its continued commitment to the crucial role played by our libraries and librarians in assisting our students and faculty in meeting their current and future learning, teaching, and research needs.

LIBRARY

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