February 3, 2015

To: Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost Claude Steele
From: Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate Library Committee
Re: Support for LAUC-B (Librarians at UC Berkeley) after fiscal year 2014-15

We are writing to ask that the office of the EVCP resume support for the professional development activities of the members of LAUC-B. This group--currently 113 members--is comprised of both Selector-Librarians within the University Library (those that report to and fall within the budget of the University Librarian), and Selector-Librarians of the Affiliated Libraries (those that report to and fall within the budgets of other Schools and departments). It is our understanding that this wantoned annual expense—formerly funded at least in part by the office of the EVCP—has been picked up by the University Library for this fiscal year (only) on an emergency basis.

We strongly endorse the request by these valued colleagues for permanent central campus funding beyond 2014-15 for this appropriate professional development expense, about $120,000 annually. This support will allow these Librarians (on whose continued and updated expertise the teaching and research functions of the University depend) to attend professional meetings, present and hear papers, and periodically, to host professional conferences here at Berkeley. It is more appropriate that this funding continue to come from the University rather than the central Library budget since those in Affiliated Libraries come under diverse units, not the central Library. If the opportunities are to be uniform, and if the downstream results include better resource management for Berkeley scholars, it is logical that the expense be borne centrally. This is a widespread practice in the necessary ongoing training and retooling of Librarians at universities in this country and abroad (including such institutions as Purdue, University of Connecticut, and McGill).

Cc: Laurent Heller, Executive Director, Campus Budget Office