

March 21, 2008

Dr. Samuel Sullivan
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Augusta State University

Dear Dr. Sullivan,

Enclosed is the 2007-2008 Annual Report of the Library Committee to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Thank you for your continued support of Reese Library and Media Services.

Sincerely,

The Library Committee

Christine H. Terry, Chair
Beverly Collins
James Grayson
Paulette Harris
Chad Stephens
Wendy Turner
Ali Leonard (student)
Billy Phillips (student)
Zoe Tolson (student)

Assessing the Needs of Reese Library:

Report of the Library Committee to the Vice President for Academic Affairs: 2007-2008

March 2008

The Library Committee's 2007-2008 Report to the VPAA identifies the needs of Reese Library, Media Services and the Curriculum Center. Our Committee is charged with assessing the needs of students and faculty, to determine how the library can better serve the academic and professional needs of the ASU community and better support the strategic mission and goals of ASU. Support for Reese Library, Media Services and the Curriculum Center is essential to the promotion and implementation of the objectives of the University and to help meet the requirements of SACS, of professional and specialized accrediting agencies governing the academic programs, and to provide support for academic program reviews.

The Committee met regularly during the 2007-2008 academic year to discuss the current programs and needs of the Library, Curriculum Center and Media Services. In making these recommendations, the Library Committee has considered the ASU mission statement, the Reese Library mission statement, the FY 2008 unit plan, the FY 2008 budget and the results of the FY 2006 LibQUAL+ survey of ASU students, faculty and staff.

PROGRESS SINCE THE 2007 LIBRARY COMMITTEE NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT:

1. The VPAA added \$50,000 to the annual budget to help address the deficit caused by the annually increasing costs of on-line subscriptions.
2. The library was able to secure permanent funding for some databases (e.g., ARTstor) which were previously funded on a year to year basis via student technology funds and/or the Office of the VPAA.
3. There have been continued efforts to improve the physical environment of Reese Library to better facilitate instruction and research. \$30,000 was obtained from the end of year funds to improve library aesthetics including:
 - Some furniture (3 offices and some student study areas)
 - Painting
 - Gallery system for art display (in progress)
 - Lights and lighting accents
 - Map cases and file cabinets
4. The request for an additional public entrance to the library has been made less of a priority, due to efforts to coordinate hours of operation for the library and JSAC.
5. The library received a \$14,515 addition to the annual budget from the VPAA to cover the first of the upcoming minimum wage adjustments for student employees of the library. Although not addressed in our 2007 Report to the VPAA, 9 out of 16 library paraprofessionals received pay equity adjustments.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To accomplish the goals set forth in the FY 2008 unit plan, to facilitate student success and retention, and to maintain the research and instructional mission of the library at the current level, the Library Committee recommends the following (listed in order of priority):

1. The Committee requests increased funding for books, journals and other resources:
 - a. To sustain current levels of funding for journal subscriptions. The cost of these subscriptions increases at a rate of 8 – 10% per year (approx. \$17,000 for the current year), decreasing the available allocations for books and other resources. In some cases, these increases have caused certain subscriptions to be cancelled. We suggest either allocating a specific percentage of the University's total operating budget to the Library's operating budget or to build inflation-driven increases into the Library budget to maintain a consistent level of funding for resources.
 - b. To enhance our curriculum and better support faculty and undergraduate research, we recommend an increase in the budget for departmental allocations (in addition to that suggested in 1.a.). This increase is necessary to allow departments to subscribe to additional journals or purchase books, media and other resources to facilitate both student and faculty research, and ties in with the University's Mission Statement: "to foster the intellectual growth of [our] students through...student research."
2. The Committee recommends continuing to update classroom technology in Science Hall and Christenberry Fieldhouse to bring them to the same instructional technology standards as classrooms in Allgood and University Hall.
3. The Committee requests the administration's support in improving the security of library inventory as well as that of library patrons and their belongings. The library (along with the Department of Public Safety) has requested funding to install security cameras at all major entrances to reduce thefts in the building. Additional cameras at other key locations are currently being discussed. Members of the library committee are in strong support of both these actions.
4. The committee recommends additional funding to increase the number of student workers throughout the library (*e.g.*, special collections, 2nd and 3rd floor help desks, roaming security monitors, etc.) Adding \$20,000 to the Library's annual budgets of Reese Library and Media Services would help to cover the increased costs of the two upcoming federal minimum wage increases and would help to bring the number of student work hours to pre-FY 2002 levels. The addition of more student workers would serve to improve retention efforts on campus by (i.) increasing the accessibility of the library to the entire student population, as well as (ii.) increasing student workers' ties to campus by providing additional student jobs.
5. The Committee requests permanent funding for resources (e.g., JSTOR) and staff positions that are currently funded on a temporary basis by either student technology funds or the Office of the VPAA.
6. We request funding (~\$2,500) to implement the LibQUAL+ survey in Spring 2009.
7. The Committee continues to support efforts to improve the structural and functional association between Reese Library and the new Jaguar Student Activities Center (JSAC). Since the library can only be accessed through the JSAC breezeway, both entities have worked together to make sure the library is accessible during business hours. We recognize that the overlap of operating hours is dependent on the budgets of both entities.