DEAN BURTIS (Co-Chair)
College of Biological Sciences

ASSOCIATE DEAN DELANY
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

PROFESSOR HALPERIN (Academic Senate Representative)
Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

VICE CHANCELLOR MEYER
Administrative and Resource Management

PROFESSOR MOKHTARIAN (Academic Senate Representative)
Civil and Environmental Engineering

PROFESSOR SABATIER (Academic Senate Representative)
Department of Environmental Science and Policy

VICE PROVOST SIEGEL
Information and Educational Technology

PROFESSOR SIVERSON (Co-Chair, Academic Senate Representative)
Department of Political Science

PROJECT SCIENTIST SMIT-McBRIDE (Academic Federation Representative)
Department of Ophthalmology

PROFESSOR WALDRON (Academic Senate Representative)
Department of Mathematics

SUBJECT: Joint Academic Senate/Administration Task Force on the University Library

Dear Colleagues:

We write to invite your participation on a joint Academic Senate/administration task force to provide us and the Chancellor perspective and advice on the future course of the University of California, Davis, General Library. There are a number of factors and events that have come together to make this a time of significant challenge and opportunity for the Library. Chancellor Linda Katehi has challenged us to develop a plan to advance the University of California, Davis, in
its place among the research Universities in the nation. As you may know, the campus is in the midst of a national search for a new University Librarian. Moreover, we continue to work our way through the University’s budget difficulties and are challenged to consider our priorities and new, more cost-effective ways to deliver high-quality Library services to faculty, students, and staff. The Library stands close to the heart of our academic mission, so its operations and services bear careful consideration by the Senate and the administration at this critical time.

With this in mind, we charge the Task Force to envision library facilities and programs befitting a top research University and make recommendations about the steps necessary at UC Davis to reach these goals. In keeping with the Chancellor’s challenge, we ask the task force to be bold in its vision—to consider all changes that, radical though they may seem, may be required to move our Library forward. Specifically, we ask that the committee provide:

1. Provide short term advice, in dialog with the acting University Librarians about how to meet permanent budget reductions for the current and the coming academic years. These recommendations must be specific. They may also anticipate that in future years, shifts in priorities may allow specific reductions to be restored as broader, structural changes are made in the operations of the Library. Even as we envision the future, the Library must continue to set priorities, plan, and make decisions that affect the short-term. While we do not ask this committee to decide the administrative details of Library management, we do believe that an ongoing dialog between the acting University Librarians and this committee will encourage short-term decisions that facilitate and leave doors open for critical aspects of the Library’s future.

2. An assessment of the Library’s current status, including but not limited to academic priorities, centers of particular strength, operational challenges and opportunities—including the diversity of significant research areas represented by UC Davis faculty—and its system-wide relationships. This will provide a baseline for consideration of improvements and a useful orientation for a new University Librarian.

3. A long-term vision of the future of the Library, including principles that should guide the necessary improvements of services, collections, and facilities, and an outline of the necessary changes.

4. Provisional, high-priority recommendations for improving services and collections that should be immediately considered and reviewed by a new University Librarian.
We and the acting University Librarians will seek from the Task Force short-term, provisional consultation on the Library’s budget challenges and other short-term planning (item 1, above) now and into the summer of 2010. We ask that the Task Force address to us its recommendations for the longer term (items 2 through 4, above) in the fall quarter of 2010. Finally, we ask that the Task Force remain intact during the first year of the new University Librarian’s tenure to provide a sounding board for her or his review of the Task Force recommendations and consideration of the Task Force perspective on the Library’s future.

The Task Force will provide its recommendations to the Chancellor, Provost/EVC, and the Divisional Chair. The Divisional Chair will convey the recommendations to the Academic Senate Library Committee and other appropriate Divisional Committees for consideration and comment.

No response to this letter is necessary, unless you are not able to serve. Should you not be able to serve, please notify Assistant Executive Vice Chancellor Bob Loessberg-Zahl (riloessb@ucdavis.edu, (530)752-6550). The first meeting of the task force will be scheduled shortly.

We appreciate the time and energy that members of this task force committee will provide to this evaluation and recommendation process. We are confident that the findings and recommendations of the Task Force on the future direction of the Library will benefit the campus and provide important guidance in the short-term to the acting University Librarians and in the longer term, to a new University Librarian.

Sincerely,

Enrique J. Lavennia
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Robert L. Powell
Chair—Davis Division of the
Academic Senate

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Chancellor Katehi
Acting University Librarian Henry
Acting University Librarian Yokote
Professor Waldron, Chair—Academic Senate Library Committee
Dean Levine (Chair, Recruitment Advisory Committee—University Librarian)