Library Petition

UFC report
Background

- Last May, Senate resolution to maintain the strength of the Cornell University Library system.

- Since that time, the university librarian has committed resources from the library's reserves for collection development and the President and Provost, working together with the College Deans, have made fund raising for Library collection development a priority.

- However together these are a stop-gap measure and do not sufficiently address the relative decline in collection development vis-à-vis our peers.

- The UFC plans to circulate an online petition to all faculty to highlight the importance of the library and the need for sufficient funding. To make this effective we need a very high response rate.
Subject heading: critical issue of library support

Dear fellow Cornell faculty,

The library has lost ground relative to our peers in both digital and print collection development in recent years. In 2010, among the 116 North American academic research libraries, in terms of total library expenditure, we were 43rd per faculty, 15th per student, and 35th per PhD field.
Draft email to faculty 2/3

To meet the university's strategic goal of being a top ten university, it is essential to meet the library's strategic goal to "return the Library to its position among the top ten academic institutions in the Association of Research Libraries in terms of collection support." In order to do this, annual funding for collection development must match that of at least the median of the top ten research libraries each and every year. Between 2005 and 2010, the median cumulative increase for the top ten research libraries was 35.6%, whereas during that time the increase in funding for collections (digital & print) at Cornell was only 1.7%. In 2010, the median materials expenditure of top ten research libraries was $23,496,098, whereas Cornell's was $16,473,369. This $7,000,000 difference is the annual gap that needs to be filled to meet our strategic goals.
While it is significant that the library has been identified as an important fund raising initiative for the 2015 campaign (with a $15 million target with collection support as a top priority), this alone will not address the growing gap.

Please join us in signing a petition voicing our strong support for the library and the need for sufficient funding. Please sign (including your name, title, department and college) and encourage your colleagues to as well.

Sincerely,
The UFC
We, the (undersigned) faculty of Cornell University, affirm the critical importance of the library system to all aspects of Cornell’s mission.

The strength of the library system is equally important for all Cornell colleges, regardless of whether we and our students rely primarily on print or on digital materials. The library system will only become more important in years to come as the repository of more traditional forms of knowledge and as the institution for developing new forms of knowledge and scholarship in the 21st century. The hiring and long-term retention of new faculty in the coming years will depend crucially on making provisions for continued excellence of library resources to support our work.
Draft petition 2/2

We call on the central administration, college deans, and faculty to work together to meet the first objective of the Cornell University Library Strategic Plan (2011-2015), to "Return the Library to its position among the top ten academic institutions in the Association of Research Libraries in terms of collection support".

Name, Title, Department, College
What we need you to do

Talk to your colleagues, explain why this is important.

Let people know to expect an email about an ipetition.

Encourage people to sign and remind other colleagues to sign!

THANKS!