

To the CLAS and UConn Faculty Community,

First of all, we would like to thank you all for your comments and suggestions since we first circulated our letter and petition about the library cuts planned for next year. We would also like to thank the approximately 250 faculty members who have endorsed the letter so far. We are still gathering signatures and we hope to rally more support from CLAS faculty. Our plan is to present our letter to the Provost with all the endorsements this Friday, October 30.

If you wish to sign, please follow this link:

<https://fs21.formsite.com/JenTerni/form1/index.html?1444737026375>



## Endorse Library Letter

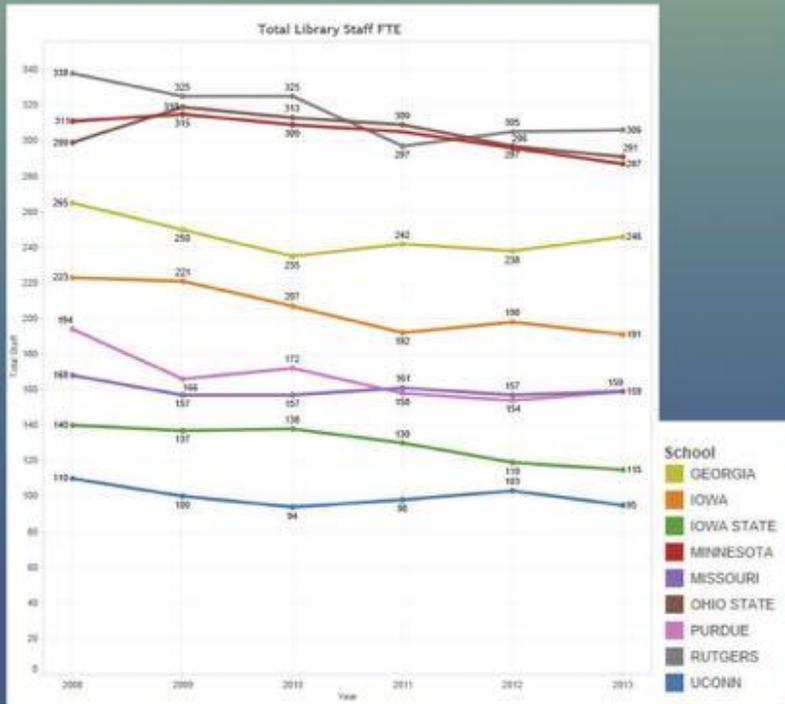
View this form on FormSite  
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We would like to thank Vice Provost Martha Bedard for her response to our letter, in which she basically confirmed the soundness of the data we had gathered. We would especially like to take this opportunity to thank her and the entire Library personnel for their outstanding work under well-nigh impossible circumstances. We would like to clarify that when our letter states that "these cuts have been implemented without either notifying or consulting with [...] the faculty," we are not referring to the Library personnel, who have indeed consulted with departments about the journal subscriptions to be discontinued, but rather about the higher administration that did not consult the faculty on the larger issue of the budget cuts for the Library. We think, given the scope and impact of these cuts, that this might have been productive.

In light of Martha Bedard's response, we actually discovered more important data. Within a few months of her arrival at UConn, Vice Provost Bedard gave a State-of-the-Library presentation to the Senate (see publicly available Senate minutes of March 3, 2014, pp. 39-60). Even then she sounded the alarm about the dire state of our library with respect to UConn's peer institutions. We would like to bring to your attention three slides from that presentation.



## Review of Peer Institutions



### UConn Staffing Levels 2008-2013

- 2008 – 110
- 2009 – 100
- 2010 – 94
- 2011 – 96
- 2012 – 103
- 2013 – 95
- 2014 – 93

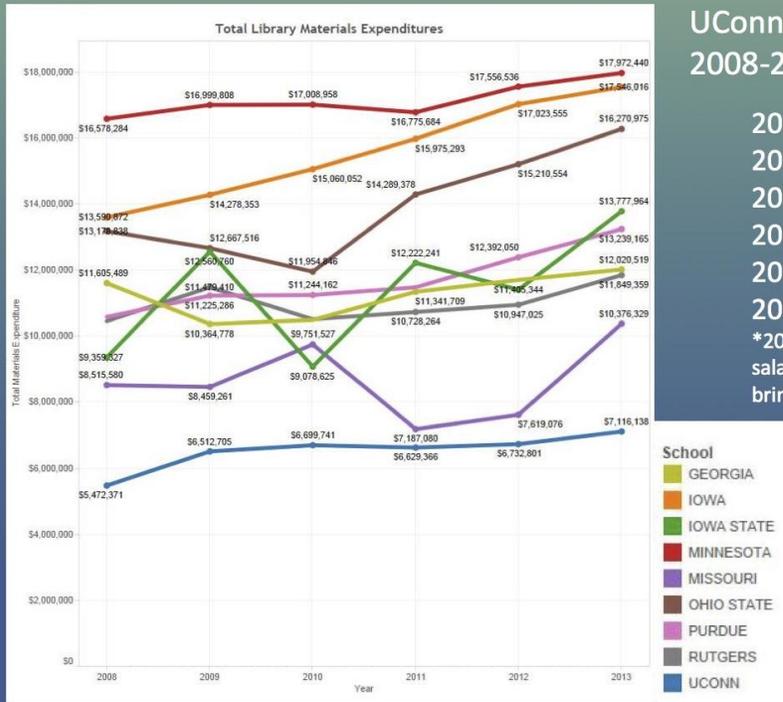
Loss of 17 FTE (16%) since 2008

Peers designated per UConn Academic Plan website: <http://www.academicplan.uconn.edu/peers.html> (no date)

The above slide refers to **staffing levels**. You will note that UConn *is at the bottom* of these rankings, before even this new round of layoffs. The figure we quoted was **from 2012**, when the library had **103 staff members** (5.18 FTE Students). Today the number of Library staff is in **the 70s**, even as student enrollment and gate count have increased substantially.



## Review of Peer Institutions



### UConn Materials Expenditures 2008-2013

- 2008 – \$5,472,371
- 2009 – \$6,512,705
- 2010 – \$6,699,741
- 2011 – \$6,629,366
- 2012 – \$6,732,801
- 2013 – \$6,103,690\*

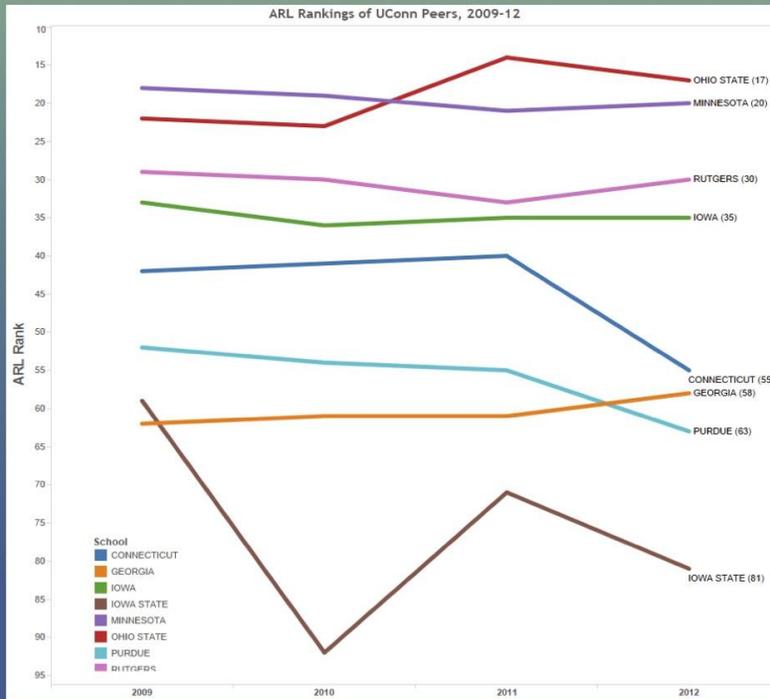
\*2013 included a transfer of \$1,012,448 from salary savings to address collection needs, bringing total expenditures to \$7,116,138

Peers designated per UConn Academic Plan website <http://www.academicplan.uconn.edu/peers.html> (no date)

**This slide gives a snapshot of total spending on materials per FTE student. As of 2012, our library already spent less per student than rival institutions. As this slide combined with the first slide show, in 2013 library staff was reduced by 8 members “to transfer \$1,012,448 from salary savings to address... collection needs.” These were estimated to be worth 7.1 million dollars. Yet our total spending in 2015 went from the \$6.8 million originally allocated to \$5.8 million after an initial 6% recision. The additional 3% cutback resulted in a total reduction of library expenditures to \$5.69 million in 2015. In real dollars that is \$375,000 less than in 2008 when UConn was an outlier at the bottom of the graph.**



## Review of Peer Institutions



### Association of Research Libraries Rank - UConn

2009 – 42  
2010 – 41  
2011 – 40  
2012 – 55

Peers designated per UConn Academic Plan website <http://www.academicplan.uconn.edu/peers.html> (no date)

This graph plots the **continuous sliding of our Library's rankings over the past several years. By 2012, this slide shows we had fallen from 42nd in 2009 to 55th in 2012. By 2013, the ARL ranked UConn 72nd. Before substantial cuts in 2012-2013, our library already ranked 100th out of 107 of Carnegie High Research Institutions according to the overall spending, that is, right at the bottom.**

At the time of her Senate presentation, the Vice Provost implored the upper administration in attendance at the meeting to “restore our place in the rankings to be competitive with our peers.” As has been shown here, the opposite has happened. Next year another \$950,000 is projected to be cut that can arguably only come out of collections, since staffing cannot be cut any further. This could bring our **total collections spending to only \$4.6 million in 2016.** The context of the past several years brings fully into focus **how damaging the cuts for 2015-2017 will be.**

On a different note, we would like to share the thoughtful email we received from Dr. Blair T. Johnson, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Psychology. He captured the critical role that the library and librarians play in the digital research environment. We thought it would be a good idea to circulate it among all the faculty. You can find it attached. Thank you, Professor Johnson.

Finally, for the sake of clarification, we would like to emphasize that the purpose of the original letter and of the materials we are sending today is to provide information about how deeply these cuts will affect the standing of our library at a national level and the negative impact on the overall research mission of the university. With all of this in mind, we plan to respectfully ask Provost Choi to please protect the library from any further cuts.

You can access the original letter, Professor Blair Johnson's letter, Vice Provost Martha Bedard's quoted graphs, and this new letter here:

[https://uconn-my.sharepoint.com/personal/gustavo\\_nanclares\\_uconn\\_edu/Documents/Shared%20with%20Everyone](https://uconn-my.sharepoint.com/personal/gustavo_nanclares_uconn_edu/Documents/Shared%20with%20Everyone)