February 12, 2003

Diane Fourny
Associate Professor
Co-Chair of Faculty Senate Research Committee
Department of French and Italian
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045

Dear Professor Fourny:

We are writing in response to the Faculty Senate Research Committee’s request for the three-year summary of information on the impact of the General Research Fund (GRF) on the University Libraries. Summary Forms A and B are attached.

Goals Statement from the January 2000 Report and criteria from the University Libraries’ guidelines

The Libraries have sought to increase the amount of scholarly activity done by its professional staff “to advance the University Libraries in national and international recognition” which would result in “observable innovation in bibliographic or subject-oriented operations”. The professional staff has been urged to apply for other developmental funds in additional to the GRF. Librarians have always been evaluated primarily on the basis of professional performance but service and research have in the recent past been stressed more heavily. The primary criterion for allocating an award is merit. The concept of merit includes more than the scholarly excellence of the research activity. It also includes the benefit to the institution and to the individual, as well as such factors as an awardee’s administrative responsibilities, the need for research support for sabbatical leave, the problems of moving into a new research field and the inaccessibility of funds to junior faculty.

Research Achievements for FY00-02

The research results achieved during FY00-02 do meet the goals and criteria of the libraries. Some of the awards study and evaluate current trends and practices in other libraries in order to create new and/or improve existing services within the KU libraries, thus benefiting the institution and our clients. The research results are shared within the profession through a variety of publications and presentations. Three of the awards supported research efforts conducted during sabbaticals. Awards have also assisted a faculty member to pursue his research interests in western U.S. history, allowing him to develop an expertise in a specific area that underscores the benefit and concept of merit to the individual.

The Libraries appreciate the funds provided to support the research efforts of the library faculty. We believe that an increase would enhance the Libraries’ research output by attracting more faculty members to apply for GRF funding. However, considering the current budgetary restrictions, we understand if additional funds are not available and would be pleased to continue with the current allocation.

If the Committee has any questions about this report, please contact Judith Emde at 864-4931 or jemde@ku.edu
Sincerely,

Judith Emde  
Library Faculty Assembly Committee on Research and Scholarly Activities, Chair

Gaele Gillespie  
Library Faculty Assembly Executive Committee, Vice-Chair

Copies to:  
Stella Bentley, Dean of Libraries  
Shannon Royer, Assistant to the Dean of Libraries  
Brad Schaffner, Library Faculty Assembly Executive Committee, Chair