DATE: January 7, 2016

TO: Ariel Andrea, Phillip Braithwaite, Deborah Helman, Dave Luke, Kathryn Maloney, Lesley Moyo, Travis Warwick, Heather Weltin, Natasha Veeser, Darin Harris, George Watson

FR: Sarah C. Mangelsdorf, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Edward V. Van Gemert, Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian

RE: Completion of the Libraries Consolidation Working Group

In October of 2014 we distributed a letter to the Deans, Associate Deans, and Directors informing them that the University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries were engaged in assessing its organizational and functional structures and priorities. In November of 2014 we developed a project charge and charter for the Libraries Consolidation Working Group.

We are writing to thank you for your efforts, to accept the final report and its recommendations, and to conclude the work of the Consolidation Working Group. In accepting this report and bringing your work to a successful conclusion, we officially move from the project planning phase to the implementation phase of the recommendations laid out in the final report. We recognize that more user engagement will be required as we move from planning to implementation of the recommendations.

In developing your recommendations, the working group interviewed campus library directors and departmental library committees to collect the relevant use data for the libraries, reading rooms, research centers, and special campus libraries. Following the writing and the distribution of the draft report, your committee spoke with divisional chairs, campus governance groups, conducted campus listening sessions, and organized an online survey in order to obtain feedback and input on the draft report. Revisions were made to the draft report and the executive summary. The final report, including its recommendations, was endorsed by the University Library Committee at its meeting on December 14, 2015.

The recommendations described in the report are a roadmap for progress and your work is the catalyst for change. More than just a report, this has been a process that the libraries have grown and learned from: be it engagement, transition planning, creativity, or team building. You have laid the foundation for many more positive things to come.

We enthusiastically accept your final report and its recommendations, and we commend you for your efforts.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the University and its libraries.