Whereas the Karrmann library’s faculty, staff, resources and physical space are intrinsically connected to research and curriculum, and

Whereas the librarians working there were at one time considered faculty yet their numbers in proportion to the rest of the faculty and academic staff have dropped steadily over the past 20 years so that not even one of the current librarians was hired as a faculty member, and

Whereas we have one of the most sparsely staffed libraries in UW-System (according to the report given to Faculty Senate this year), and

Whereas (according to recent announcements) the floorspace in the library devoted to library functions appears to be physically shrinking even as our enrollment has grown, and

Whereas there appears to be a lack of clarity in or communication about the areas in which IT and library functions do and do not overlap and little apparent recognition that having easily searchable scholarly databases requires trained librarians, and

Whereas not having properly indexed electronic databases could seriously hamper access to scholarly resources needed in areas ranging from freshmen composition to faculty and academic staff research, and

Whereas it is unclear how/where current library personnel will be and what their functions will be after the planned library reconfiguration and how those decisions are being made, and

Whereas it is unclear where some courses housed in the library basement will be housed after the planned library reconfiguration,* and

Whereas some students, faculty and staff report some frustration with:

- the closure of the first floor periodical/interlibrary loan desk without consulting academic areas or a (public) analysis of the impact on those areas
- the weeding of library collections, without consulting academic areas or a (public) analysis of the impact on those areas (even when some academic areas requested to be informed and questioned the decision)
- the apparent blurring between library and IT functions noted above
- the use of the library basement as a classroom space when it was not constructed for nor intended as a dedicated high-use classroom area*
- the lack of communication concerning new library processes resulting in at least the appearance of not soliciting input from students, faculty and staff,
- the taking of on-line library tutorials off-line and discontinuing the library newsletter without replacing them with something else or explaining the decision,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate solicit membership for a faculty committee to investigate and report back to the Faculty Senate about the academic impact of the planned library reconfiguration and suggest ways that faculty, academic teaching staff and students might be able to better communicate our needs to the library and those who supervise and fund it.

*Library basement classrooms are currently the only classrooms that the English program has first priority to schedule in. English faculty and staff did not suggest this scheduling arrangement, have no objection to being moved into classrooms that were designed to be classrooms, and support this resolution per unanimous vote 12/4/2013 at the Humanities Department/English Program meeting.