

The Council of University of Wisconsin Libraries (CUWL) is urging you to remove sections 23-26 of the UW System budget. The “telecommunications” section of the legislation as it is proposed would severely limit broadband connectivity throughout the state of Wisconsin and would cut the innumerable services the UW System libraries provide to the citizens of the state of Wisconsin.

WHEREAS service to broadband Internet access through WISNET is mission critical to the academic success of students, faculty and staff;

WHEREAS service to broadband Internet access through WISNET is mission critical to libraries and library users across the state of Wisconsin;

WHEREAS University of Wisconsin system libraries depend heavily on consortial agreements that provide network or information technology services such as Internet 2 and EDUCAUSE;

WHEREAS University of Wisconsin system libraries enable access to members of the local communities, K-12 schools, visiting scholars, international visitors, via WISNET connectivity;

WHEREAS University of Wisconsin campuses and University of Wisconsin Extension’s provide direct connections to communities, hospitals, public libraries, etc.

WHEREAS, if legislation of this bill passes the UW System libraries, public libraries, private colleges and universities libraries, K-12 libraries, special libraries, local historical societies and museums, hospitals, local municipalities and other public offices will be severely hindered in providing affordable and outstanding bandwidth internet access to their users;

WHEREAS, the passage of sections 23-26 of the UW System Budget Bill would have devastating and deleterious effects on our collaborative services such as “universal borrowing” for all UW collections, high-speed interlibrary services, on-site access and services to visitors, and cooperative purchasing of databases and electronic resources.

THEREFORE, The CUWL library members strongly urge you to remove said sections of the bill and to provide WISNET the support it should have from the state of Wisconsin.

The Council of University of Wisconsin Libraries (CUWL) is comprised of the following members:

Voting CUWL Members

UW Colleges (Waukesha), Scott Silet
UW-Eau Claire, John Pollitz
UW-Green Bay, Paula Ganyard
UW-La Crosse, Anita Evans
UW-Madison, Ed Van Gemert, General Library System
UW-Madison, Julie Schneider, Ebling Health Sciences Library
UW-Milwaukee, Ewa Barczyk
UW-Oshkosh, Patrick Wilkinson
UW-Parkside, Vanaja Menon (Chair)
UW-Platteville, Zora Sampson
UW-River Falls, Valerie Malzacher
UW-Stevens Point, Kathy Davis
UW-Stout Paul Roberts
UW-Superior, Deb Nordgren
UW-Whitewater, Myrna McCallister
Wisconsin Historical Society, Michael Edmonds

Dr. Jeffrey Alexander, UW-Parkside, Faculty Representative

Dr. Elizabeth Jozwiak, UW-Rock County, Faculty Representative
Dr. Lucy Arendt, UW-Green Bay, Faculty Representative
Dr. Amy Cooper-Cary, UW-Milwaukee, Faculty Representative
Martin Havlovic, UW-Cooperative Extension, Faculty Representative
Ex Officio Non-Voting CUWL Members
Budget Planning, UWSA, April Goodwin
OLIT, UWSA, Ed Meachen
OLIT, UWSA, Felice Maciejewski
Office of Procurement, UWSA, Ruth Ginzberg
WiLS Representative Eric Robinson

The UW Libraries have successfully employed the concept of *One System, One Library* in order to maintain and improve world-class collections that advance teaching, learning and research. *One System, One Library* has also allowed the UW Libraries to achieve efficiencies in services in an environment of flat or reduced budgets and rapidly increasing costs.