February 13, 2012

University of Utah Graduate Council

Re: Library support for the proposed National Science Foundation Materials Research Science & Engineering Center (NSF MRSEC)

Dear Graduate Council:

The University of Utah Libraries appreciate the opportunity to comment on our ability to support the National Science Foundation Materials Research Science & Engineering Center. The libraries are committed to supporting the University and its faculty as they develop programs needed by our students.

The Marriott library has the necessary resources to support the Center’s mission. The Library has developed strong collections of both print and electronic resources in the areas of Sciences and Engineering.

Despite budget constraints, we are usually able to order any resources necessary to directly support classes. We modify our journal subscriptions to reflect current teaching and research. As the scholarly communication landscape evolves, new options may exist beyond traditional print book purchases and conventional subscriptions. We would like to work with faculty to evaluate the most workable formats that support their teaching and research most effectively. We offer class presentations and one-to-one consultations with library specialists who will help students find the most relevant works and suggest the most appropriate search strategies.

We look forward to working with both faculty and students in this new Center.

Yours truly,

Rick Anderson
Associate Dean
Scholarly Resources and Collections

Catherine Soehner
Associate Dean
Research and Learning Services