College Library Committee Resolution on the Engagement of an External Vendor to Support Collection Re-locations during Partial Renovation

Whereas Milne Library is poised to undergo a partial renovation that will require frequent relocation of large portions of the library collection over a 19-month phased renovation cycle;

Whereas the Library is, and must continue to be, a vital academic resource for the campus during this partial renovation;

Whereas the professional library faculty and staff are already fully engaged in ongoing operational tasks and services that will need to continue uninterrupted during the period of renovation;

Whereas the acquisition of compact shelving and allocation of storage space does not fully solve the personnel and labor challenges of moving the library collection;

Whereas efficient movement and reorganization of a substantial library collection requires training, experience and professional expertise;

Whereas the planned renovation is staged to require no fewer than four major book moving operations, involving hundreds of thousands of titles over a two-year period;

Whereas a defined strategy to move the collection in phases is critical to this multi-million dollar renovation, and allocation of adequate funding and additional personnel resources is essential;

Whereas the library is expected to maintain critical functions and services in a “live” renovation environment, the dynamics of which will strain existing services and access, including the capacities to provide on-site library instruction, circulation, and, potentially, paging services for remotely stored titles;

Whereas the Mission Statement of the Milne Library “To provide quality information resources, services, and expertise, both within and beyond the library’s walls, and to create an inviting and stimulating intellectual center for teaching, learning, and research at the State University of New York College at Oneonta,” must continue to be honored and supported throughout the period of the Milne renovation.

Therefore be it Resolved that the College Library Committee strongly urges the college’s engagement of a qualified professional library moving service dedicated to managing each phase of moving the collection. This strategy should be integrated into plans for the partial renovation immediately so that the campus community can be informed, funding sources may be identified and, most explicitly, so that the professional staff of the library may continue to give their full efforts and attention to existing professional responsibilities and appropriate preparations for the challenges that lie ahead.