

Electronic Delivery

December 2, 2025

Dear Faculty Senate,

The purpose of this letter is to provide a clear and comprehensive overview of the library resources that will support the proposed Master of Science in Viticulture and Enology. Specifically, this letter addresses current library staffing capacity, existing digital and physical collections, budget considerations, including the absence of a dedicated collections fund code, and any planned or ongoing resource enhancements relevant to this program.

### **Library Staffing Levels and Capacity to Support Graduate Programs**

The WSU Tri-Cities library maintains sufficient staffing to support graduate students in Viticulture and Enology. Currently, our graduate students primarily come in through the Horticulture graduate group, and while the total number of students is not expected to increase substantially, their enrollment will shift primarily from Horticulture to Viticulture and Enology. This shift will help us recruit students into this unique discipline. The library system includes professional librarians with expertise in agricultural and life sciences, supported by circulation and access services staff who provide timely assistance with research materials, interlibrary loans, and digital resource navigation. Although no single librarian is assigned exclusively to viticulture and enology, the existing team has consistently demonstrated strong capacity in this area through their ongoing support of faculty, undergraduate researchers, and related graduate programs across WSU Tri-Cities

### **Existing Digital and Physical Collections**

WSU Tri-Cities Circulation Supervisor Steve Bisch has compiled a detailed list of physical and digital holdings relevant to viticulture, enology, plant sciences, chemistry, microbiology, engineering, soil science, and fermentation science. This list is attached and reflects a substantial and well-established foundation of resources appropriate for graduate-level study. Beyond physical holdings, the Department of Viticulture and Enology maintains extensive online journal subscriptions, discipline-specific databases, and e-book collections that directly support advanced research. These digital resources include the core journals and scientific literature expected for a graduate program in this field and are already widely used by faculty and students.

### **Budget Constraints and Impact on Program Support**

While the library, like many academic units, navigates budget constraints, these limitations do not impede its ability to support the proposed MSc in Viticulture and Enology. The current holdings, both physical and digital, are sufficient for graduate coursework and thesis research. Additional

resources, if needed, can be considered through existing department acquisition workflows and prioritized in collaboration with our faculty.

### **Collections Fund Code / Dedicated Collections Budget**

It is accurate that this subject area does not have a dedicated collections fund code or an independent collections budget. However, this has not hindered access to relevant materials in the last twenty years, WSU has had faculty with a viticulture and enology focus. Resources supporting viticulture and enology are the ones currently in existence for horticulture and food sciences on the WSU Tri-Cities campus. Given the current strength and depth of holdings, the absence of a dedicated fund code does not present a barrier to launching or sustaining the proposed MSc program.

### **Planned Resource Enhancements**

The library continues to evolve its support for research-intensive programs through the robust interlibrary loan services that ensure rapid access to materials beyond local holdings. Additionally, the Department has a vast resource of books and journals delivered regularly to the Wine Science Center. These ongoing enhancements, combined with established resources and staffing, ensure that the library is well-positioned to support graduate students and faculty in the proposed Master of Science in Viticulture and Enology.

Please let me know if any additional clarification or supplemental information would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Kathleen McAteer, PhD  
Vice chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs