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Academic Senate

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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION  
(UCOLASC)  
Abraham Stone  
[abestone@ucsc.edu](mailto:abestone@ucsc.edu)

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November 13, 2025

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Erik Mitchell, Mathew Willmott, Miranda Bennett, Co-Chairs  
Project Transform Negotiating Team (PTNT), Project Transform Working Group  
(PTWG), UC Council of University Librarians (CoUL)

RE: Amplified Statement on 100% Open Access Agreements with Publishers

Dear Erik, Mat, Miranda, and CoUL colleagues,

On February 27, 2025, UCOLASC issued a [statement](#) on 100% Open Access agreements with publishers that culminated in the following call-to-action:

*“UCOLASC calls for UC to enter into open access agreements with publishers whereby open access publishing and Creative Commons Attribution licenses (CC BY) are default for all our authors.”*

At its most recent meeting on October 31, 2025, UCOLASC reaffirmed and amplified its previous statement. UCOLASC does so in recognition of emerging complexities in scholarly communication, which are driven by publisher responses to new federal requirements. These requirements mandate that all federally-funded research articles be deposited in a public repository without any embargo period. Such federal mandates are in-line with the [UC Systemwide](#) and [Presidential Open Access Policies](#) that endow all UC authors with a prior right and obligation to make their work immediately available in [eScholarship](#), as well as the federal purpose license granted to federal funders. Unfortunately, in response to federal public access policies, multiple publishers have made changes to their workflows that require federally funded authors to pay for open access publishing, even though funder public access policies explicitly do not require this.

To instantiate its [Declaration of Rights and Principles to Transform Scholarly Communication](#), UCOLASC has asked the UC Libraries to enter into transformative agreements with publishers, and we are delighted in the progress made since the first agreement with Cambridge University Press in 2019. Today, well over 50% of UC scholarly publications are eligible for library-supported open access under dozens of publisher agreements. We ask the UC Libraries to push further on this path. These agreements not only make UC research freely available to all Californians and the world, but they also present an opportunity to align publisher policies with our institutional and funder mandates so that any compliance burdens or contradictory guidance to authors are minimized.

As a result, UCOLASC has unanimously endorsed the following statement:

*“The University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC), hereby signals its collective and resolute commitment to support the negotiations of the University of California (UC) with Elsevier and other publishers to advance UC’s mission as a public institution, make the products of our research and scholarship as freely and widely available as possible, enable authors to retain all rights as creators, and ensure UC spends taxpayer money in the most ethically, morally, and socially responsible way.*

*To this end, UCOLASC calls for UC to enter into agreements with publishers whereby open access publishing and Creative Commons Attribution licenses (CC BY) are default for all UC authors, and subscription publishing is deprecated as an option-of-last-resort provided only upon request. UCOLASC does so with the acknowledgement that a limited number of UC authors may require additional publishing and licensing options for reasons that are discipline-specific and related to academic freedom—but such options should not restrict the rights of authors nor their ability to comply with institutional and funder obligations.*

*In addition, UCOLASC calls on publishers to provide clear author guidance and communications consistent with the prior rights and funder obligations of UC authors irrespective of whichever publishing path an author chooses.*

*Pursuing 100% open access publishing agreements advances the goals set forth in the UCOLASC Declaration of Rights and Principles to Transform Scholarly Communication and aligns closely with the mission of the University to provide “long-term societal benefits through transmitting advanced knowledge, discovering new knowledge, and functioning as an active working repository of organized knowledge.”*

In closing, we thank you, the other members of the PTNT, PTWG, and CoUL for your efforts on our behalf, and we remain by your side with firm resolve. Based on payments flowing from UC, as well as the value added to the publishing system through the free labor of UC faculty as uncompensated authors, peer reviewers, and editors, we feel amply justified in our expectation that publishers fully and transparently support, rather than undermine our success, especially as federal grantees.

Sincerely,



Abraham Stone  
Chair, UCOLASC

Deborah Blocker, **Vice Chair**

Mark Hanna, **Past Chair**

Richard A. Schneider, **Past Chair**

Jennifer LaFleur, **UC Berkeley**  
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Michael Hance, **UC Santa Cruz**

cc: UCOLASC