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Chair of the Assembly and the Academic Council
Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

June 16, 2009

**PRESIDENT MARK YUDOF
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

Re: Promoting Open Access Policies

Dear Mark:

At its meeting on May 27, the Academic Council unanimously endorsed a request from the University Committee on Libraries and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC) that the University actively encourage open access to publications by: (1) promoting national legislation and policies by federal funding agencies that support open access, such as extending to other federal funding agencies the NIH policy of requiring open access to the research it funds; (2) educating UC faculty about open access issues; (3) promoting open access initiatives at the University; and (4) bargaining with journal publishers for open access to articles by UC authors.

Open access refers to publications that are freely available to any potential reader. Open access policies would benefit UC by increasing access to UC-generated research, both by scholars at institutions that can not afford specialized journals, and by interested members of the general public. Open access policies also promote accountability to the taxpayers who fund research. I have enclosed UCOLASC's letter for your reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding Council's request that the University support open access policies at external funding agencies and promote existing and future open access initiatives at UC, such as the California Digital Library's eScholarship Repository.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Croughan".

Mary Croughan
Chair, Academic Council

Copy: Academic Council
Lawrence Pitts, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President
Lawrence Armi, Chair, UCOLASC
John Sandbrook, Interim Chief of Staff
Martha Winnacker, Academic Senate Executive Director

Encl (1)



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION
Larry Armi, Chair
larmi@ucsd.edu

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May 14, 2009

MARY CROUGHAN, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Re: OPEN ACCESS PROPOSAL

Dear Mary,

Open access refers to publications that are freely available to any potential reader. These can include journal articles, electronic books, other types of e-text, music, fine arts or any other creative endeavor.

There is substantial momentum in the UC system, indeed in the academic community as a whole, to increase access to scholarly activity, particularly publications. This "open access" movement has developed in response to several factors including the ever-increasing cost of scholarly journal publications and the reduction in the availability of paper journals as electronic-only publications become more prevalent.

Scholars at the University of California have a vested interest in ensuring that their work reaches the widest possible audience, including members of the public whose tax dollars support much of the University's research enterprise. One specific issue working against this goal is that printed versions of scholarly journals are disappearing and are being replaced by electronic-only copies of journals. This shift to electronic access, coupled with the increasing cost of journal subscriptions, restricts access to research results. Specifically, access is reduced when researchers or members of the public can only read journals if they buy a personal subscription or are affiliated with a library with a subscription to the electronic journal. This increasing restriction on the dissemination of research results, driven largely by profit rather than intellectual considerations, runs counter to the spirit in which University of California faculty, researchers and students undertake their scholarly activity.

The primary tangible benefit of open access policies to the UC research enterprise is increasing access to UC-generated scholarly results particularly by researchers at institutions that may not be able to afford a wide variety of specialized journals, and by interested members of the general public and the press who could access publications of interest via the internet. Open access policies encourage transparency in the results of research activity to those whose tax dollars fund such activity. The mission of the University of California is to benefit the public good; open and transparent access to research results demonstrates our commitment to this goal.

We unanimously urge the UC system to further open access through the following strategies:

1) Promoting national legislation and policies by federal funding agencies that support open access.

Here the Academic Senate should work through the Office of the President. One important immediate goal would be to block passage of the bill H.R. 801, which would make the National Institute of Health Public

Access Policy illegal, and ban other federal agencies from adopting similar policies. Beyond this, we should promote extending the NIH policy, requiring open access publication of funded research, to the National Science Foundation and other funding sources.

2) Informing University of California faculty of the ways the open access issue affects them, and of the actions they can take.

Many faculty are unaware of the full extent of the harm caused by the current system of journals dominated by the large publishers: the strain it puts on the University of California library budgets, the way it unduly affects hiring and promotion decisions, and the way it limits scholarly communication worldwide. Many are unaware of the wide range of organizations working to improve the situation, and the ways they can help. Until more faculty are concerned with the open access issue and know concrete steps they and the University can take, progress will be slow.

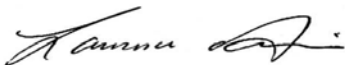
3) Promoting open access initiatives at the University of California.

Our university has faculty and programs at the forefront of innovation in this issue, and their work deserves to be better known. Examples of initiatives include the California Digital Library, initiatives undertaken by the University of California Press, and the digital distribution of UC lectures by UC Berkeley and UCLA. The University Librarians are to be commended for their exemplary efforts to educate their faculty and their efforts should be promoted and encouraged. These and other projects should be advertised both within and outside the university.

4) Bargaining hard in contract negotiations with the journal publishers.

The size of the University of California puts us in a better bargaining position than smaller universities, so we can push for precedent-setting concessions from these publishers. Our bargaining should aim not just for the lowest possible prices, but also for open access to articles by University of California authors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry Armi".

Larry Armi, Chair
UCOLASC