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February 28, 2019

University of California Academic Council Statement on the University's Negotiations with Elsevier Publishing

The Academic Council of the Academic Senate of the University of California (UC), hereby signals its collective and resolute commitment to support UC's negotiating position with Elsevier in order to advance UC's mission as a public institution, make the products of our research and scholarship as freely and widely available as possible, and ensure that UC spends taxpayer money in the most ethically, morally, and socially-responsible way when entering into agreements with commercial publishers.

Background

The University of California has been negotiating with Elsevier, the largest commercial publisher of scholarly journals. As part of the [current negotiations](#), UC has been seeking sustainable cost controls as well as a novel transformative agreement in which our Elsevier authors would retain their copyrights, their articles would become completely and immediately open access, and the payments for open access publishing would offset our Elsevier subscription expenditures. By design, such a transformative agreement would be transitional and accelerate a shift to full open access for all our Elsevier authors within a very few years. Most significantly, a successful agreement would align 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.*”

At the present time, UC and Elsevier have reached an impasse in their negotiations and our contract has lapsed. Nonetheless, the Academic Council of the Academic Senate stands firm in its conviction that a comprehensive transformative agreement that covers all Elsevier titles is required to achieve the aspirations embodied in the Academic Senate's [Open Access Policy](#), and articulated by the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC) in its [Declaration of Rights and Principles](#), and by the Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Committee (SLASIAC) in its [Call to Action](#). We support the unified strategies of the UC libraries to ameliorate the negative effects of the impasse on faculty, researchers, and students, and applaud their efforts to closely monitor alternative access along with the impacts it may have on research and teaching.

We ask all publishers to work with UC in good faith to meet our short- and long-term goals for transforming scholarly communication, and we encourage our faculty to weigh these goals when deciding where to send their work for publication, when agreeing to review manuscripts, or when performing editorial duties. Moreover, we urge all UC authors to utilize our [open access policies](#) to make their final pre-publication manuscripts publicly and immediately accessible in our [institutional repository](#).

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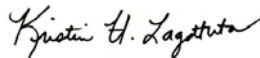
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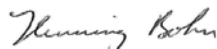
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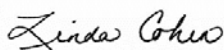
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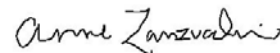
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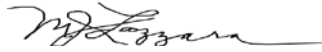
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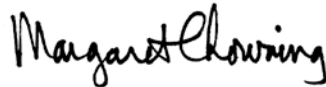
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