



Kum-Kum Bhavnani
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Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

April 21, 2020

JANET NAPOLITANO, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: OSTP Request for Information: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications, Data and Code Resulting From Federally Funded Research

Dear Janet,

The Academic Council has unanimously endorsed the following statement from the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC), in support of proposed changes to White House policy related to the embargo period for making published federally funded research available in open access repositories. We understand that current policy requires such research to be available within one year of publication. The Academic Council supports a “zero-day” embargo policy, which would require research to be available immediately upon publication. We note, in addition, that the University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) has endorsed a comment letter about the policy from UCOP’s Office of Research and Innovation. We think it would be useful for the University to forward both the Council statement and the comment letter to the Office of Science and Technology Policy under a single transmittal.

Statement in Support of a Zero-Embargo Policy

Open access is a widely-held value at the University of California (UC) and particularly among UC Faculty, as evidenced by the [2013 Academic Senate Open Access Policy](#) and the Academic Council’s endorsement of [Declaration of Rights and Principles to Transform Scholarly Communication](#). Moreover, Faculty direct the system’s open access initiatives in partnership with the University Libraries, and are critical leaders of UC’s pursuit of open access transformation.

With respect to the OSTP Request for Information, UC Faculty support a zero-embargo policy for author-accepted manuscripts. UC Faculty also affirm that such a policy represents a measured step forward, in alignment with UC’s mission to serve society and provide long-term benefits through the transmission of research and knowledge.

UC Faculty are steadfast in their support of scholarly societies, but at the same time somewhat disappointed with societies' slow response to embrace open access transition to zero-embargoed publications. To transform scholarly publishing at scale requires the community to transition away from subscription-based publishing models and towards open access; a zero-embargo policy will motivate apathetic publishers to engage, in a serious way, the creation of sustainable and open scholarly publishing models. Key partners, including the University Libraries, are committed to supporting societies in the scholarly communication transformation, while UC Faculty endorse and are prepared to actively shape such efforts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kum-Kum Bhavnani". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair
Academic Council

cc: Academic Council
Vice President Maldonado
Research Policy Manager Balla
Chief of Staff Kao
UCOLASC
UCORP