



1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200  
Phone: (510) 987-9074  
<http://www.ucop.edu>

May 6, 2020

Dr. Lisa Nichols  
Assistant Director for Academic Engagement  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Submitted via email: [OpenScience@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:OpenScience@ostp.eop.gov)

**RE: Docket ID [OSTP-2020-0004](#) Request for Information: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications, Data and Code Resulting From Federally Funded Research (RFI Response: Public Access)**

Dear Dr. Nichols:

I am pleased to support and submit the below statement that has been developed by the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications (UCOLASC) and endorsed by the University of California Academic Council:

Open access is a widely-held value at the University of California (UC) and particularly among Academic Senate members, 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.

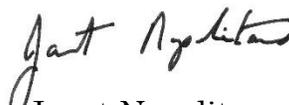
With respect to the OSTP Request for Information, the UC Academic Senate supports a zero-embargo policy for author-accepted manuscripts. The Academic Senate also affirms that such a policy represents a measured step forward, in alignment with UC's mission to serve society and provide long-term benefits 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.

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In addition to the statement, please find enclosed a letter from University of California Vice President for Research and Innovation Theresa A. Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E., providing UC's comments in response to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) request for information on Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications, Data and Code Resulting From Federally Funded Research.

I ask you to take the UC faculty statement on the zero embargo policy and the comments included in Dr. Maldonado's letter into consideration in response to the Request for Information and as you work to finalize the policy.

Yours very truly,

  
Janet Napolitano  
President

Attachment

cc: Academic Senate Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani  
Vice President Theresa Maldonado