

Committee on the Library Resolutions on Scholarly Publishing

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The Committee on Research supports the goals of this resolution:

Resolutions

We resolve the following:

1. Prices for online access to journals. The UCSC Senate proposes the following principle be conveyed to UC negotiators to use in their negotiations with journal publishers. Where publishers submit systemwide contracts for access to online content with prices which exceed the consumer price index by more than 1.5% in any one year averaged over five years then that contract should be referred to the Committee on the Library of the UC Academic Senate (UCOL) for comment.

Justification: We support the UC Libraries' efforts to curtail unsustainable pricing for access to scholarly information. This resolution supports UC's California Digital Library (CDL) negotiations with journal publishers by providing an automatic referral to faculty of all those contracts which substantially exceed the prevailing rate of inflation. The margin above inflation that triggers referral to UCOL should be reviewed periodically by UCOL and CDL's Director of Licensed Content, particularly when there are significant changes in the rate of inflation or in library budgets.

2. Academic promotion and the evaluation of scholarly work. We propose that the UCSC Senate establish a task force including former chairs of CAP to explore ways to meet the challenge of academic evaluation in an era when publication and performance possibilities are changing.

Justification: The intertwining of the evaluation of scholarly work with the authority of particular publication and performance outlets raises difficult issues which the academic community cannot expect the various committees and individuals concerned with academic evaluation and promotion (including the Committee on Academic Personnel, Ad Hoc Committees and search committees, Deans, Departmental Chairs and others) to solve without collective guidance. It is hard for academic evaluations to avoid using the prestige of particular outlets, from journals to performance venues, as a metric for quality. By so doing, however, the power of some publishers and some performance venues, and their ability to charge high and rising prices, is maintained. This resolution proposes that an appropriate group of faculty be asked to find ways of circumventing this problem.

3. We assert a collective right to make our work widely available. We propose that the UCSC Academic Senate, in collaboration with the UC Academic Senate and the UC Administration, take urgent steps to explore the restructuring of the University's copyright policy to assert a collective right, under the direction of individual faculty, to distribute faculty work for research and teaching.

Justification: Our intention is that scholarly work would remain the property of individual faculty, but faculty members would no longer have to struggle individually with publishers to retain the right to disseminate their work. This collective assertion of rights by the UC Academic Senate would provide backing for the free flow of information as the foundation of intellectual innovation. Toward this end we ask the Senate to work with appropriate committees and the UCSC administration so that a resolution can be brought to Senate in Fall, 2005 detailing the administrative processes and legal formulations through which this collective right can be established.

4. University stewardship of all forms of publishing. We propose the UCSC administration explore the establishment of an Office of Scholarly Communication or similar administrative unit to take responsibility for the persistent stewardship of all forms of scholarly communication.

Justification: This resolution tasks the UCSC administration to take responsibility for ensuring the persistent availability of university scholarship regardless of its form. New forms of academic publishing, from web pages to online data sets to online performance, are adding new opportunities for teaching, for the dissemination of scholarly work, and for artistic expression. These new forms have no steward and the task of ensuring their persistence is daunting. With this resolution, the Senate asks the administration to examine what arrangements will enable the challenge to be explored and met. As in other parts of this resolution, Senate expects that this university rise to the challenge of thinking at the edge.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY

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