

Report of Faculty Senate Library Committee to Faculty Senate

April 25, 2005

To continue to build the positive momentum which the University's libraries have experienced in the last two years, including the Trustees' gift to the libraries and the instituting of 24/7 hours at Kelvin Smith Library, the Committee engaged in two major initiatives during this academic year:

1. Discussion of Open Access publishing, within the Committee and with various groups around campus (see directly below), and creation of an ad hoc Open Access Task Force, resulting in a resolution proposed for adoption by the Faculty Senate. Such a resolution can place this University's faculty among the select few that have gone on public record as supporting this strengthening of the scholarly communication process.
2. Meetings of the Committee's chair, University Librarian, library directors, and other Committee members with strategic planning groups or general faculties in each of the academic units, as well as with several administrative leaders. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the value to the units of addressing Open Access publishing and to identify ways in which the libraries could support the units' strategic plans. (Meetings remain to be held with the Law and Management Schools.) In several cases these meetings proved of immediate use by initiating joint action concerning significant curricula and educational innovations, such as evidence-based practice in Dentistry and MSASS, new programs in Nursing, and linkage to partner institutions at the Medical School. Similarly, the Committee met with administrators and support librarians engaged with SAGES and identified how the libraries can best support its full roll-out.

The Committee also engaged in initial exploration of long-term possibilities for enhanced budgetary and other resource support for the University's libraries. In collaboration with the F/S Committee on Information Resources, this should be part of the Committee's agenda for the coming year. So, too, should be further work on scholarly communications, including co-sponsoring a Digital Library seminar series. The Committee also intends to examine electronic publishing (beyond its Open Access research journal forms), including ways to promote the accumulation of multimedia materials that will bring people to campus via our websites.

The broad intent of these initiatives has been to foster dialogue on campus regarding how the libraries can best constitute a central element in the University's powerful learning environment. From these discussions a picture is gradually emerging of the libraries being at the heart of the campus as a learning commons for information literacy, scholarly communication, student life, and educational collaboration. These are roles that a transformative library at Case will play.

Discussion of Scholarly Communications and Open Access Publishing

Following a series of discussions among its own members, with strategic planning groups around the campus, and with an Open Access task force, the Library Committee voted unanimously at its April meeting to propose that the Faculty Senate adopt the resolution on Open Access publishing that is presented below. The Faculty Senate Committee on Information Resources, at its meeting on April 19, approved support for this resolution as a move toward full discussion of Open Access across the constituent faculties.

Open Access is designed to facilitate scholarly communications and provide ready accessibility to the products of scholarship, primarily through their being deposited in digital archives and freeing them of restrictions for distribution. Open Access is also an attempt to counter the strongly inflationary trend in journal subscriptions that has resulted in cuts in monograph purchases and other library services.

Open Access publishing involves a variety of complex issues, including its differing implications across an array of disciplines for scholarly processes such as professional association leadership and peer review, and no resolution concerning it should be definitive and binding. Rather, the purpose of the proposed resolution is to lend support to the movement toward Open Access that is occurring at the National Institutes of Health and many of the nation's leading universities and to stimulate fuller awareness and discussion of the movement and its implications in the University's various academic units. Resolutions supporting Open Access have been passed by a growing number of faculty senates, including those at Stanford, Berkeley, Cornell, and Columbia (see <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/senate/resolutions/04-05/access.htm> for the most recent) and at a variety of other universities. See http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/scholarlypublishing/faculty_resolutions.pdf for excerpts from these resolutions.

To prepare for its discussion, members of the Senate are urged to consult the following concise materials:

<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/september04/vandesompel/09vandesompel.html>
("Introduction" and "The Changing Nature of Scholarly Communications")

<http://www.createchange.org/resources/OpenAccess.pdf>

<http://www.dcpinciples.org/>

then proceed to the Faculty Senate Library Committee's website

<http://library.case.edu/ksl/admin/facsen/>

if they desire to further peruse relevant documents and publications, including those listed under #'s 6, 7, and 1, and the "talking points" at the top of the page.

Proposed Resolution

Background: Scholarly Communication – A System in Flux

In many disciplines an increasing number of journals are using an open access model. Open Access is changing the cost model of publishing from a user to a producer fee. For purposes of this resolution, the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) definition of Open Access is used as a point of reference:

- Journals that use a funding model which does not charge readers or their institutions for access. From the Budapest Open Access Initiative definition of Open Access, the DOAJ takes the right of "users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles" as mandatory for a journal to be included in the directory. The journal should offer open access to its content without delay.
- For a journal to be defined as Open Access, it should exercise quality control on submissions.
- Research journals are defined as those that report primary results of research or overviews of research results to a scholarly community.

Proposed Faculty Senate Resolution on Open Access

Whereas Open Access publishing represents a fundamental shift in the dissemination of scholarly knowledge, being readily available, increasingly cited, and often peer-reviewed, and

Whereas access to the products of scholarship should reflect the cooperative nature of their development; and

Whereas the public and government agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), encourage widespread access to the products of sponsored research; and

Whereas universities subsidize scholarly research and then must purchase back the published products of that research at increasingly high costs, eroding their libraries' ability to purchase books and provide personnel for service and extended hours; and

Whereas scholars routinely lose control of their work by signing away their copyright rights to publishers.

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate urges the University and its members to

Support Open Access publishing in their educational, research, editorial, and administrative roles by encouraging their professional societies to move toward Open Access publishing, aiding in forming and providing editorial assistance to peer-reviewed Open Access journals, and favoring such journals when submitting their own research;

Encourage the University's libraries to reallocate resources away from high-priced publishers;

Support the consideration of peer-reviewed Open Access material during the promotion and tenure process;

Post their work prior to publication in an open digital archive and seek to retain particular copyright rights enabling them to post their published work in a timely fashion and provide institutional support to those seeking to do so; and

Establish infrastructure to sustain digital Open Access publication.