



San José State
UNIVERSITY

A campus of The California State University

Office of the Academic Senate • One Washington Square • San Jose, California 95192-0024 • 408-924-2440 Fax: 408-924-2451

SS-S08-3

At its meeting of March 10, 2008, the Academic Senate passed the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Senator Peter for the University Library Board.

SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION

Calling for a Task Force to Investigate Open Access to Publications through an SJSU institutional repository, and make appropriate Recommendations

- Resolved, That the Academic Senate of San Jose State University should organize a special task force to investigate whether SJSU should adopt a policy concerning Open Access to faculty publications through an institutional repository managed by the University Library; be it further
- Resolved, That the special task force should consider whether SJSU has an obligation and/or a need to create an Open Access policy of its own. It should consider, among other things, the examples of the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences¹ in adopting an open access policy, the example of the NIH Public Access policy², and the success and reputation of open access publications such as the Public Library of Science; be it further
- Resolved, That the special task force should include representatives of all concerned administrators and faculty; among those representatives should be the Dean of the University Library, a specialist from the library on institutional repositories, a representative from the office of Graduate Studies and Research, a representative from the University Foundation, appropriate Deans and/or Associate Deans, faculty with expertise on RTP issues, faculty with experience and expertise on copyright issues, faculty who (collectively) have published government-funded research in a wide range of peer reviewed journals—including online, faculty who have served on the Foundation Board, and any others that the Senate and its committees think useful to give the Task Force the widest possible expertise on the subject

Rationale:

The subject of “Open Access” to faculty publications has steadily grown in importance over the

1

<http://www.eprints.org/openaccess/policysignup/fullinfo.php?inst=Harvard%20University%20Faculty%20of%20Arts%20and%20Sciences>

²<http://publicaccess.nih.gov/policy.htm>

last several years and has finally reached a crescendo this spring. First, the NIH promulgated requirements for open access to publications funded by NIH grants, and second (after their own task force took a year to study the issue) the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences adopted a sweeping open access policy for nearly all articles they publish.

The general background for open access concerns the spiraling costs both of print journals and of online subscriptions to electronic journals. Universities have increasingly resented the fact that they hire faculty and fund their research, but that their libraries then have to pay huge amounts of money to access the fruits of this research. It has come to the point that many libraries can no longer afford to subscribe to all the journals in which their own faculty publish—or they can only do so by making inordinate sacrifices elsewhere in their budgets. This is a gross perversion of the ideals of academic freedom, in which the ideas and knowledge of faculty are supposed to be widely disseminated among their peers and colleagues for critical comment and public benefit.

For a number of years, University Libraries and faculty activists have urged that academia begin to take measures to find alternative ways to disseminate faculty knowledge. There have been formidable barriers to overcome—including the need to publish in established peer-reviewed journals, copyright restrictions, and others. Only recently have solutions to these problems begun to become available, as the Harvard faculty attest. For example, publishing in peer-reviewed journals does not preclude open access dissemination of faculty research and scholarship.

The University Library Board believes that it is now time for SJSU to examine these issues for itself, with the full resources of its faculty and staff. We now do have an electronic repository which could be used for faculty publications—if appropriate. Above all, a policy concerning something as vital as faculty publications should be produced by the faculty—and not imposed through external pressures.

Approved: 13-0-0

Discussed at meeting on March 3, 2008. Approved by email vote March 5, 2008

Present: Moon, Bernier, Smith, Peterson, Von Til, Bakke, Kifer, Whitney, Chung, Chang, Fleming, DeSalvo, Peter

Absent:

Vote: 13-0-0

Financial impact: S.O.S. resolutions have no financial impact

Workload impact: S.O.S. resolutions have no direct workload impact. However, should the Senate decide to create a Task Force on Open Access as suggested, it would of course involve considerable committee work.