To: Administrative Officers, Deans, Department Chairs, Directors, Faculty, Vice Chancellors, and Vice Provosts

17 December 2013

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to inform you that on July 24, 2013, the Academic Council voted to adopt an Open Access (OA) Policy for scholarly articles published by all Senate faculty across the University of California system. This UC OA Policy follows an equivalent policy passed unanimously by the UCSF Academic Senate on May 21, 2012. As described below, there are two differences between the UC OA Policy and the UCSF OA Policy. Most importantly, the UCSF OA Policy remains in effect and takes precedence over the UC Policy for UCSF faculty. Regardless of their differences, both OA policies allow faculty members to maintain legal control over their research articles while making their work widely available to the public. Neither policy requires faculty to publish in open access journals, or to pay fees or any other charges to publish. Instead, both OA policies commit faculty to making a version of each article freely available in an OA repository.

To support implementation of our OA Policy, a new article deposit system was launched by UC’s eScholarship on November 1, 2013. This article deposit system is being rolled out at the UCSF, UCLA, and UC Irvine campuses during the first year, and then at the seven other UC campuses beginning on November 1, 2014. **UCSF Faculty can exercise their rights immediately** under the OA Policy and make their articles publicly and freely available by using the eScholarship digital repository ([http://www.escholarship.org/](http://www.escholarship.org/)) or any other open access repository. UCSF Faculty can also deposit any articles that they have published since May 21, 2012. The process of depositing an article in eScholarship takes less than a few minutes and ensures that your work becomes widely disseminated. In the near future, eScholarship will use MyAccess for logging into their system, and will also implement a harvesting tool that automatically deposits articles that are already published as OA or available in another OA repository. Moreover, the California Digital Library and our campus librarians are endeavoring to have some publishers deposit on behalf of faculty much like what already happens for the NIH Pubmed Central OA repository.

UCSF Faculty authors may opt-out of (i.e., waive) the license grant for any given article or they may delay (i.e., embargo) the availability of the article. This can be easily accomplished in an automated transaction that takes less than one minute at the eScholarship website. However, unlike with the UC OA Policy, UCSF faculty cannot waive their deposit obligation and are required to deposit a copy of every article they publish in eScholarship for archival purposes. Moreover, the UCSF OA Policy stipulates a more restrictive non-commercial license for deposited articles (CC-BY-NC-SA), whereas the UC OA Policy specifies a commercial (CC-BY) license.

The UC OA Policy has been under review by the Senate divisions and committees for more than two years and its systemwide implementation is a move of major significance. Open access policies like ours have been adopted by close to two hundred universities, but none of these institutions are as large, influential, or productive as the University of California, which publishes close to 40,000 articles every year. Thus, our faculty have sent publishers a very strong signal about how they want to see OA implemented and their work disseminated throughout the world.
By many measures, the UCSF OA Policy has been immensely successful. Firstly, the administrative burden on faculty has been minimal. Requests for an embargo or a waiver can be handled by an administrator, a student, a postdoc, or a faculty member himself or herself. As noted above, the whole process takes less than a minute and instantly generates a PDF that can be attached to the e-mail request from the publisher. UCSF publishes an average of 4,500 peer reviewed, primary research articles every year. That's about 375 per month. Since the policy was passed in May of 2012, we have had XXX requests for waivers. That is an average of XX requests per month. Most significantly, this number represents less than 5% of the total output for UCSF and means that 95% of our scholarship can be instantly and freely available to the public and other scholars. Secondly, passing the OA policy has noticeably changed our dialog with commercial publishers. The vast majority of publishers are complying with the policy, others are working on being compliant, and some who were initially the most resistant, have engaged us in dialogues that would have been unheard of previously. Finally, another success is the newfound awareness that faculty have concerning their rights as authors, and regarding how the choices they make about where they publish affects those rights and access. More faculty now understand that many of the new ways of publishing and disseminating their scholarship have tremendous advantages over the old system and they are embracing OA. This has not gone unnoticed by more traditional journals, who have begun to transform their business models in ways that support OA.

The California Digital Library (CDL) and the campus libraries have many resources to assist faculty in complying with the OA Policy. Together, the UCSF Library and the CDL have also contacted over 600 publishers to alert them to the OA Policy and to help publishers cooperate with the terms of the OA Policy. For this reason, faculty rarely (if ever) have to notify publishers of the policy itself (via an addendum). If your publisher does not contact you about the policy, or request a waiver or an embargo, then you can safely assume that you can exercise all of your rights under the OA Policy and make your work available freely and immediately. If faculty receive questions about compliance from publishers, co-authors, or colleagues, they can consult the resources listed below (including an FAQ) or contact the UCSF Library for assistance.

Learn about your rights and responsibilities at the UC OA Policy website: http://uc-oa.info

Find out about the UCSF policy at: http://www.library.ucsf.edu/services/scholpub/oa/policy

Watch a 90-second video about the policy – and pass it on! http://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu

Deposit your articles quickly and easily in eScholarship: http://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/open-access-policy/deposit/

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Executive Vice Chancellor
Chair, Academic Senate