



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES AND ARTS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED  
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD  
MERCED, CA 95343

To: Lisa Nichols, Assistant Director for Academic Engagement, OSTP  
From: Dr. Maria DePrano, Chair, Library and Scholarly Communications Committee (LASC),  
Academic Senate, UC Merced  
Dr. Michael Scheibner, Chair, Committee on Research (COR), Academic Senate, UC  
Merced  
Re: RFI Response: Public Access  
Date: March 16, 2020 - Corrected March 17, 2020

Dear Lisa Nichols and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP):

The members of the Library and Scholarly Communications Committee (LASC) and the members of the Committee on Research (COR) of the Academic Senate at UC Merced affirm that the public should have free and immediate access to peer-reviewed findings of publicly-funded research. Open access to scholarly research publications is a broadly-held value at the University of California (UC). The UC Faculty have demonstrated our strong support of open access through our [2013 Academic Senate Open Access Policy](#). UC faculty lead our system's open access initiatives in partnership with the University Libraries and are critical leaders of UC's pursuit of open access transformation of scholarly publishing.

With respect to the OSTP Request for Information, we write in strong support of the reduction of the current twelve-month post-publication embargo period to a zero-embargo policy for author-accepted manuscripts. We also affirm that such a policy represents a deliberate step forward in alignment with UC's mission to serve society and to provide long-term benefits through the transmission of research and knowledge.

We stress that the financial onus of making articles open access should not be on the Principle Investigator's grant. We recommend that the federal granting agencies implement solutions such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has done with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (H.R. 2764) in which electronic copies of peer-reviewed research and findings from NIH-funded research are deposited in open PubMed Central database.

Another solution is for federal granting agencies to implement a "pay for publishing performance" program in which publishers should demonstrate to the funding agencies and public research institutions how effective they have been in disseminating research funded by the taxpayer. In other words, for federally funded research the federal funding agencies should pay the publishers to disseminate the research.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.