

University of Washington
Faculty Council on University Libraries
February 7th, 2017
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Suzzallo 5th Floor Conference Room East

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Review of the minutes from December 7th, 2016
 3. Open access policy – Gordon Aamot
 4. Good of the order
 5. Adjourn
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1) Call to order

Hill called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2) Review of the minutes from December 7th, 2016

The minutes from December 7th, 2016 were approved as written.

3) Open access policy – Gordon Aamot

Gordon Aamot (Director, Scholarly Communication and Publishing, University Libraries) was present to give a final brief on the newly drafted UW Open Access Policy, which the FCUL and Faculty Council on Research (FCR) are likely to endorse and push through the legislative process as Class B legislation to cement as official university policy before the end of the 2016-2017 academic year. The council support analyst gave a background on the timeline for approval of Class B legislation.

Background

Aamot explained during the spring of 2015, the UW University Libraries were charged to develop a university-wide open access policy and to assess the needs of the institutional repository. The 2016 Open Access Report includes details on those needs (Exhibit 1). That work has now been all but completed. There are associated institutional costs, especially in relation to the repository. It was noted the Class B legislation on an Open Access Policy will be introduced in the March 2 meeting of the faculty senate as an information item, after which senators will be asked to propagate information more widely to their units and around the university before the policy returns to the body to be voted on. A group of faculty and staff has been formed to act as ambassadors for the policy and to educate on its implications for university faculty.

Drafting the policy

Aamot explained in order to develop the UW Open Access Policy, drafters first evaluated current open access policies at University of Minnesota, University of North Carolina, University of Massachusetts, Harvard, University of California, and several others. One element taken from those policies was that they were brief and focused specifically on university faculty (excluding staff and students). The main idea behind open access is that peer reviewed articles authored or coauthored by UW faculty are eligible to be deposited to open access before publication. The purpose of the policy is to make UW research and scholarship freely and widely available to the people of the State of Washington and the broader research community.

In addition to the Open Access Policy, a FAQ sheet was developed and added to the report to provide additional information. Aamot noted the FAQ will likely evolve over the next three months.

Review and discussion

The council read through each section of the policy with Aamot providing background on development and various iterations.

It was clarified that copyright ownership is not transferred to the university as part of the policy, instead the policy allows the university to place faculty works in the repository via a non-exclusive license. Under the policy, there would not be a blanket waiver relating to depositing works to open access (on behalf of a faculty member) due to its “opt-out” nature. Instead, faculty must opt out of depositing to open access each time they submit a scholarly article that is pinged for submittal. Sophisticated repository software Symplectic Elements includes functionality to automatically contact faculty and request they attach and submit manuscripts of located scholarly works to UW open access.

Hill asked about any known concerns faculty have in relation to the draft policy. Aamot explained his belief is that concerns include fear of heightened administrative burden, concerns over copyright law, and repercussion from publishers. There was some discussion of data showing various university presses sustained revenue losses in correlation with heightened open access.

There was a question concerning what percentage of open access participation confirms success versus failure. One member noted the initiative does have its costs to the university, though if any greater sharing of information results from the policy, it is a benefit to the UW and the wider population.

One member noted data shows that a faculty member’s work, after deposited to open access, is often cited quite more than articles that are not deposited to open access. It was noted this benefits the faculty member, the student (citing the work), as well as the university.

A member questioned how outside people are going to know about articles stored in the repository. A member explained repository articles do show up in search engines such as Google or Google Scholar.

A member asked about the broader public’s need, and if the need for open access truly exists. A point was made that greater use of open access helps fulfill the UW’s mission, and amplifies the institution’s impact on the state, and the world.

A member had the idea that the initiative could be supplemented via some sort of campus-wide recognition for those faculty who make an effort to publish to open access.

It was clarified that any individual author can submit a coauthored article to open access.

The council thanked Aamot for providing more information on the policy and for answering questions.

4) Good of the order

Hill noted he would be asking via email for a FCUL volunteer to join the upcoming Senate Executive Committee meeting.

5) Adjourn

Hill adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes by Joey Burgess, jmbg@uw.edu, council support analyst

Present: **Faculty:** Lauro Flores, Trent Hill (chair), Randall Leveque, Kristin Gustafson, Betty Bekemeier
Ex-officio reps: Suzanne Redalje, Ellen Barker
Guests: Gordon Aamot

Absent: **Faculty:** Jevin West, Laurianne Mullinax, Richard Furman
Ex-officio reps: Anshumaan Mohan, Alanna McAuley, Kate O’Neil
President’s designee: Betsy Wilson, Cynthia Fugate, Tom Helleburg

Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – 2016 Open Access Report.pdf