



MEMORANDUM

March 22, 2018

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor
SUBJECT: Campus Open Access Policies and System Repository

Action Requested

The proposed resolution directs the development of campus-specific open access policies for faculty, student, and staff scholarship and creative works and the creation of searchable repositories.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas State University of New York faculty, students and staff routinely produce scholarly and creative works that are of public interest, inform the works of other scholars, and promote scholarly activities in their respective fields; and

Whereas the scholarly and creative works of SUNY faculty, students and staff are frequently published in leading journals, many of which have open access provisions; and

Whereas the dissemination and sharing of published scholarship and creative works is the cornerstone of communication among scholars; and

Whereas a significant proportion of SUNY research and scholarship is supported by either direct federal agency grants or federal funding channeled through state agencies; and

Whereas many federal agencies are instituting requirements about public accessibility to the final work product of efforts they fund; and

Whereas access to scholarly journals has become increasingly cost-prohibitive for SUNY faculty, staff and students, and for the libraries that support them, and awareness of journal open access provisions and/or opportunities for shared resources which would increase access can be improved; and

Whereas best practices in the development of open access policies include:

- respect for and protection of faculty, student and staff ownership, and the empowerment of these scholars/creators to voluntarily make informed determinations about whether and where to share their scholarly and creative work;
- information resources and training relative to faculty, student and staff ownership, including processes for the return of rights under open access provisions of certain scholarly journals;
- flexibility for scholars/creators in choosing the terms of use and licensing associated with each article/work that they elect to include in an open access repository, such as whether it can be used for commercial or non-commercial use, copied, edited, remixed and built upon;
- cataloguing of materials included in the open access repository, facilitating user recognition of types of information housed;
- issuance of an addendum for each article/work that authors can provide to publishers notifying them of the open access policy; and

Whereas several SUNY campuses and many other institutions of higher education have developed optional repositories for faculty to archive and make available their published scholarship and creative works; and

Whereas the Office of the System Provost currently maintains an optional repository for campuses to utilize that could be expanded; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that SUNY continues to encourage faculty, students and staff to pursue publication of their scholarly/creative works in peer-reviewed journals, monographs, proceedings, books, etc.—its commitment to open access is not meant to supplant those efforts but to increase access to them; and, be it further

Resolved that each State-operated campus shall develop and adopt—via a consultative process that follows local faculty governance procedures and includes the faculty, student and staff protections and best practices identified in this resolution—an open access policy that recognizes each campus's unique mission and culture by no later than March 31, 2020; and, be it further

Resolved that each community college is also encouraged to develop and adopt—via a consultative process that follows local faculty governance procedures and includes the faculty, student and staff protections and best practices identified in this resolution—an open access policy; and, be it further

Resolved that the System Provost shall work with campus chief academic officers, SUNY librarians, and other appropriate campus and System Administration staff to ensure that every SUNY faculty member and student has access to an open-access scholarly repository, and, where appropriate, related shared/networked services, and that these SUNY repositories be integrated and searchable via a single interface; and, be it further

Resolved that each campus open access policy shall be consistent with the rights and responsibilities set forth in the Board of Trustees Policies, Article XI, Title J: Patents, Inventions and Copyright Policy, as codified in Sections 335.28 and 335.29 of Title 8 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York; and, be it further

Resolved the Chancellor and System Provost shall work with campus leadership, faculty, students and other key stakeholders to implement this resolution, including the continued consultation with faculty and student governance and the provision of informational resources and training about ownership rights and responsibilities, and shall report periodically to the Board of Trustees on progress and about any additional steps that may be needed to ensure the successful implementation of this resolution.

Background

This resolution is designed to advance access to the scholarly and creative works of SUNY faculty, students and staff via open access repositories. Open Access is defined as typically free, timely, online availability of scholarly and creative works that permit users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of articles for any lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the Internet.

Recognizing that faculty priorities regarding scholarship vary by individual, discipline, and institution, this resolution calls for the collaborative development of campus policies that respect ownership as delineated above and incorporate best practices as outlined herein.

This resolution was informed by actions of the SUNY University Faculty Senate on open access and a System-wide Open Access Taskforce.