GSGA41-R09

Resolution Recommending Cross-Campus Actions to Support Equitable, Open Access to Scholarly Content

**Summary:** The University Libraries, University Library Council (ULC), Libraries’ Student Advisory Group, and the cross-campus UMD PACT working group (Publishing, Access and Contract Terms) all seek to address the current barriers that prevent equitable access to publicly funded research, scholarship, and data. More open access to research outputs can enhance human knowledge and increase the reach and impact of UMD’s research. The following resolution outlines recommendations the Graduate Student Government (GSG) supports.

WHEREAS, there are unnecessary and detrimental cost and permission barriers existing to access the products of publicly funded research; and

WHEREAS, The University of Maryland (UMD) is a land grant, public Research I institution with a stated mission that, in part, supports “ground-breaking discoveries that address the most pressing global challenges and inspire the human imagination,” and with stated priorities of serving the public good and achieving inclusive excellence; and

WHEREAS, UMD’s movement toward equitable, open access, along with other flagship universities, will help demonstrate UMD as a forward-thinking, innovative leader in tackling challenges in scholarly communication; and

WHEREAS, open access will help graduate students have greater ability to conduct robust research for their work by having more vetted scholarly materials available without paywalls or long waits to view materials; and

WHEREAS, self-archiving and/or publishing content as open access will help make more scholarly research, scholarship, and data available to the people of the State of Maryland and across the globe, including low- to middle-income countries who cannot afford expensive read-only subscription fees;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT GSG calls upon graduate students, faculty, libraries, and senior administration to support the efforts of UMD PACT in opening up access and removing barriers of access to UMD’s publicly funded research outputs; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT GSG calls upon graduate students and faculty members in their capacity as authors and researchers to retain their authors’ copyright, publish in open access journals, utilize the Open Science Framework, and deposit research into open access repositories such as the Digital Repository of the University of Maryland (DRUM); and
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT GSG calls upon graduate students and faculty in their roles as educators to choose open textbooks and open educational resources for their classes to help alleviate the financial strain for students for costly textbooks and course materials; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT GSG officially supports the proposed policy drafted by UMD Publishing, Access, and Contract Terms (PACT)\textsuperscript{1} entitled \textit{Equitable Access to Scholarly Articles Authored by University Faculty}\textsuperscript{2} that is currently under review and will be considered for adoption by the University Senate in 2021-2022.

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\textbf{Date and Time of Submission:} 1 November 2021

\textbf{Date of Presentation:} 5 November 2021

\textbf{Action(s) Taken:}

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\hspace{1.5in} Decision of GSG President
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\hspace{1.5in} Signature of GSG President \hspace{2in} Date
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\textsuperscript{1} https://pact.umd.edu/

\textsuperscript{2} https://pact.umd.edu/sites/default/files/2021-09/pact_equitable_access_scholarly_articles_policy_draft_revised_2021_0916_final_draft.pdf