

PROPOSAL FOR
AN ACADEMIC COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION
PRESENTED TO THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL, NOVEMBER 24, 2003

At its October meeting, Council discussed further the Editorial Committee's proposal to establish a Policy Subcommittee. Council agreed that the Council Chair would consult further on whether a special committee is warranted, and, if so, its appropriate nature and focus, and that he would report back at the November meeting.

Chair Pitts would like to submit for Council's endorsement the establishment of an Scholarly Communications Special Committee on the Academic Council (SCSC). The Committee's proposed tenure would be ~~3-4 years~~ until August 2005, but Council could consider extending the Committee's life if this seems justified. Its proposed membership would include: 2 members each from the Editorial Committee and the Universitywide Committee on Library, 1 each from UCAP, UCPB, UCEP, and CCGA, plus the Academic Council Chair or his/her designee who will serve as Chair of the committee.

The Special Committee's charge would be broad and would include:

- investigating methods of cost-effective production and wide dissemination of scholarly works, both periodicals and monographs
- evaluating possible business plans for production and distribution of these works, including the optimal methods of financing (e.g. author costs, pay-per-view, commercial, etc.)
- ensuring that dissemination methods are optimal and of high quality, and can be used as the basis for peer review and academic advancement
- determining faculty interest in initiating new publications if they seem feasible and advisable
- assessing the interest of scholarly societies of new methods of publication, and attempting to find ways to mitigate possible adverse effects such methods might have
- evaluating possible legal issues of new methods of publication (e.g. fair use, disclosure, collusion, etc.)
- considering the role of the UC Press and the California Digital Library, if any, in these new ventures
- considering the role of commercial publishers, if any, in these new ventures

It seems likely that some of the SCSC's work will be done through small working groups for particular tasks. The Committee would plan to have consultants from the California Digital Library, the UC Press, the Office of the General Counsel, or other OP or campus administrators as needed.