

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SYSTEMWIDE LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY INFORMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

BACKGROUND

The broad and timely communication of the results of scholarship is essential to the education and research missions of the University of California. There are currently significant dysfunctions in scholarly communication systems that threaten the dissemination of scholarship and may hinder, reduce, or prevent its role in scholarly inquiry and its impact on societal progress. This crisis of access and impact is due primarily to the fact that the current economic model that supports scholarly communication is incontrovertibly unsustainable. Unless costs are reduced or fundamentally redistributed, researchers, whether they reside in universities, private industry, or government agencies, will not have access to the full range of scholarly and scientific information that they require. Similarly, unless modes and mechanisms for communicating research results, and their associated university policies, are analyzed and updated, the dissemination of research, including UC's substantial research output, is in danger of becoming ineffective and inefficient, with resulting delays or lost opportunities to contribute to subsequent scholarship and societal progress.

An effective response to the crisis will require a national and international effort that recognizes, respects, and where possible accommodates the interests of the many parties that have a stake in the production, review, dissemination, and use of the world scholarly and scientific record. As one of the world's leading research and teaching institutions, the University of California experiences a significant impact from this crisis that is amplified by the State's adverse financial condition, and is in a unique position to take a leadership position to address it.

The University and its faculty have already made significant ongoing commitments to address the crisis and seize opportunities for positive change, including:

- The eScholarship program (<http://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/responses/escholarship.html>), which facilitates innovation and supports experimentation in the production and dissemination of scholarship.
- The UC Press (<http://www.ucpress.edu>), which offers online editions of journals and monographs and is actively developing and experimenting with alternative publications and business models, often conducted through partnership with the eScholarship program.
- The Academic Council's Special Committee on Scholarly Communication (<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/committees/council/scsc/>), with a wide-ranging charge to investigate and make recommendations on academic issues related to the existing crisis and alternative strategies.
- A library-based program (<http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/scholarly/>), grounded in the latest UC Libraries' strategic plan (<http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/planning/>), that aims to ensure alignment of UC library practice with scholarly communication program goals and provide a support infrastructure for faculty.
- An administrative organization, the Office of Scholarly Communication (<http://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/responses/osc.html>), that will support, coordinate and

otherwise facilitate internal partnerships among the UC libraries, faculty, and administration and, where appropriate, in concert with entities outside UC.

Owing to the importance, complexity and urgency of the issues involved, and the wide range of UC stakeholders with (potentially divergent) interests in their solution, these initiatives can benefit from high-level oversight from a group that is both knowledgeable about the subjects and representative of the constituencies involved. SLASIAC, as the University's senior advisory council on libraries and scholarly communication, is charged to "advise the University on ... strategies that will enhance and facilitate the transmission of scholarly and scientific communication in a digital environment" (<http://www.slp.ucop.edu/consultation/slasiac/charge.html>), and is therefore the logical body to oversee these efforts and advise the Provost, senior management, and the Academic Council in this area. However, particularly during the launch phase of these initiatives, it may be desirable to have an advisory body that a) can meet more frequently than the regular SLASIAC meeting schedule and b) includes expertise not currently represented on the SLASIAC membership.

CHARGE

The SLASIAC Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Scholarly Communication is charged to review the University's initiatives in scholarly communication and recommend means to provide a focus for effective Universitywide collaborative leadership and oversight in this effort by:

- Informing systemwide strategic planning and practical initiatives in a manner that involves all constituencies that have a major stake in solving the problem;
- Recommending means to maximize the benefits derived from disparate individual, campus, and systemwide efforts, by encouraging and supporting appropriate collaboration within UC;
- Speaking for the university on scholarly communication issues;
- Facilitating inter-institutional collaboration by gathering practical commitment at the highest possible level from peer institutions.

The Ad Hoc Committee will deliver preliminary recommendations to SLASIAC for discussion no later than SLASIAC's Spring 2005 meeting, currently scheduled for March 10, 2005.

The Ad Hoc Committee is appointed by the Chair of SLASIAC, shall consist of 7-9 members, and shall include representation from:

- UC Faculty (including, for example, a representative from the Senate's Special Committee on Scholarly Communication, the Academic Council)
- Campus senior administration (e.g. Executive Vice Chancellors)
- University Librarians
- Research Vice Chancellors
- Assistant/Associate Vice Chancellors for Academic Personnel
- The UC Standing Committee on Copyright

In addition, the following serve as ex-officio members of the Committee:

- University Librarian and Associate Vice Provost for Scholarly Information

- Director of the UC Press

At least one member of SLASIAC shall serve on the Ad Hoc Committee, and the Chair of SLASIAC will select a Chair from the SLASIAC members serving on the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Co-Directors of the Office of Scholarly Communication will provide staff support to the Committee.

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