

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

**DATE:** October 16, 2019

**TO:** Wendy Wintersteen, ISU President  
Jonathan Wickert, Senior Vice President and Provost

**FROM:** Jonathan Sturm, Faculty Senate President

**SENATE DOCKET NUMBER: 19-5**

**TITLE: Resolution in Support of Library Negotiating Principles**

**VOTE: Approved**



**Jonathan Sturm, Faculty Senate President**  
**Faculty Senate**



[Jonathan Wickert \(Oct 21, 2019\)](#)

**Jonathan Wickert, Senior VP and Provost**  
**Iowa State University**



[Wendy Wintersteen \(Oct 21, 2019\)](#)

**Wendy Wintersteen, ISU President**  
**Iowa State University**

**Preamble:**

Over the past two years, university libraries have begun to take an increasingly strong stance in negotiations with journal publishers in order to advance goals such as open access to research and to reduce subscription and publication costs. In February 2019, the University of California cancelled its agreement with Elsevier after failing to make progress towards these goals. Library consortia in Norway, Sweden, and Germany have also used cancellation as a strategy in journal negotiations. Recent agreements that significantly advance open access (Germany) and reduce costs (France) indicate a shift in what is possible in journal negotiations.

In a past resolution from 2016, the faculty senate of Iowa State University strongly encouraged its faculty, among other things, to publish in open journals and to place their research in the digital repository for universal free access. As a point of departure, that resolution reinforced the Open Access discussion on campus, strengthened the library's initial resolve to push forward toward better models for publishing and subscribing to faculty research, dramatically increased submissions to the ISU Digital Repository, and set the stage for future progress in this area.

Recent developments have created the opportunity for ISU faculty to revisit and strengthen their commitment to the principles they previously endorsed, and to support our library in its upcoming subscription negotiations.

**Factual background:**

- ISU is a public land grant university with a mission to share the knowledge it creates to make Iowa and the world a better place.
- Traditional journal subscription agreements support a closed scholarly communication ecosystem that restricts the open sharing of knowledge.
- Journal publishers use non-disclosure agreements to obscure contractual terms, isolate universities from each other, and to strengthen their negotiating position.
- Journal publishers continue to exploit the market to earn profits margins above 30% and imperil the ISU Library's ability to provide access to the scholarly literature needed to support the university's teaching and research missions.
- Journal publishers charge faculty individually to publish their research open access while *also* charging the libraries where these faculty work for subscription to the same journals, effectively double charging.

**Resolution: Faculty Senate Support for ISU Library's Principles for Advancing Openness  
through Journal Negotiations**

The Iowa State University Faculty Senate endorses and supports the ISU Library's *Principles for Advancing Openness through Journal Negotiations* in order to

- prioritize the open dissemination of research that democratizes access to knowledge,
- prioritize transparency in negotiations and contracts to level the playing field between publishers and libraries,
- prioritize financial sustainability to ensure the long-term financial health of the ISU library and to advance the university's research and publishing future.