

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

1580H Memorial Union
Ames, Iowa 50011
515.294.1585
www.stugov.iastate.edu

1 2019-2020
2 3rd Session

2019-3-0XX SR

In the Iowa State University Student Government Senate
January 15, 2020

Senator Stanley (for himself and Senator Heasley) introduced the following resolution.

A RESOLUTION

TITLE: Endorsing the University Library’s Principles for Advancing Openness through Journal Negotiations

WHEREAS: In the last two years, university libraries nationwide have begun to take stronger stances during negotiations with journal publishers with the aim of procuring fair and reasonable subscription and publication costs, and

WHEREAS: This also helps further the noble goal of free and open access to research papers and findings for all who wish to peruse them, and

WHEREAS: As a land-grant institution, Iowa State University was founded with an imperative to disseminate the knowledge created here for the benefit of Iowans and the world at large, and

WHEREAS: Journal publishers use predatory tactics such as forcing researchers to sign over the bulk of the intellectual rights to their own works as a condition for publishing and compelling universities to sign non-disclosure agreements regarding the details of their subscriptions to extort tremendous profit margins from universities which in some cases exceed 30 percent, and

WHEREAS: Iowa State University has been and is currently a victim of these tactics, as the University Library pays a substantially disproportionate rate for the services of some journal publishers when compared to many peer institutions, and

WHEREAS: Cancellation of journal subscriptions has been used as a successful strategy by universities which refuse to submit to these underhanded tricks any longer, most notably by the University of California during their negotiations with the journal publisher Elsevier in 2019, and

WHEREAS: The example of the University of California, as well as landmark agreements regarding cost reduction and open access in France and Germany, provide an opportunity to explore previously infeasible possibilities in our own negotiations with journal publishers, and

WHEREAS: The University Library has released a document titled, “Principles for Advancing Openness through Journal Negotiations,” which details the stance that the Library will take during negotiations moving forward in order to advance the joint goals of open access and proportional costs, and

WHEREAS: The Library Advisory Committee and the Faculty Senate have both endorsed this document, be it therefore

RESOLVED: That the Iowa State University Student Government endorse this document and affirm their support for any action the University Library may take during these negotiations which adheres to these principles, and be it further

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- 1 RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be sent to President Wendy Wintersteen, Senior Vice
- 2 President and Provost Jonathan Wickert, Interim Library Dean Hilary Seo, and Associate
- 3 University Librarian for Scholarly Communication and Collections Curtis Brundy.