

University Senate Research Committee (USRC)

Meeting Minutes

Dec 8th, 2023

Meeting conducted by Zoom

Members in Attendance: Brittain Mahaffey (Psychiatry & Behavioral Health), Roger Sher (Neurobiology & Behavior), Clara Tran (Libraries), Soosan Ghazizadeh (Oral Biology & Pathology), Qiaojie Xiong (Neurobiology & Behavior), Jeff B Edwards (Philosophy), Adith Anugu (undergrad student representative)

Also in Attendance: Jerome Liang (School of Medicine), Iris Fineberg (School of Social Welfare), Jamie Saragossi (Library)

Minutes reviewed and approved from Nov 2023

Introduction of attendees

Guest Speaker: Jamie Saragossi Interim Associate Dean of Collection Strategy and Management

Update Regarding Library Collections/Elsevier

- 1) Reviewed Elsevier Situation-
 - a. Recap—SUNY walked away from Science Direct big deal in 2020, decision made by SUNY that pricing was unfair due to double dipping.
 - i. Multiple divisions-clinical solutions and research solutions at Elsevier complicate negotiations.
 - ii. Have maintained subscriptions to some packages—eg, Compendia, Engineering Village, Clinical Key Packages
 - iii. Continue to pay 600K for titles from bigger Science Direct package
 - b. Solutions explored:
 - i. Identify list of titles to subscribe to (provost declined to pay)
 - ii. Article Galaxy scholar (on demand interlibrary loan services)—would take the ILL process out of the equation and expedite access (25K for pilot not funded by provost)
 - c. We have exceeded copyright limit for 12 Elsevier titles—will have to start pay copyright fees. Overall Costs going up.
 - d. Either you get the full package, or pay per access. Cannot purchase individual titles. Springer, Oxford Wiley and Elsevier all have the same model. Library has had success negotiating with Springer and Wiley, Taylor and Francis and other publishers have agreed to new deals to help account for inflation costs.
 - e. Collections budget flat this year (Melville), East Campus 3% for inflation—245K deficit.
 - f. Meeting with the 4 University Centers to try to leverage strength and efficiencies in negotiations.
 - g. Academic Commons open access repository seeing increase in deposits.

- 2) Support for publishing open access
 - a. Libraries receiving requests from east campus deans for support open access options
 - b. Transformative agreements, read and publish agreements (would involve a 20% increase to base) to incorporate open access charges up front. UCs have adopted this model with some of their publishers. It's not at the SUNY level, would have to be campus by campus negotiations. A lot of administrative overhead to use these agreements. Puts library in the position of deciding which publications to support in this way.
 - c. Open access only journals proliferating. Library is negotiating discounts (10% APC discount for Elsevier journals). But fees continue to be quite exorbitant.
 - d. IF is an issue for OA Journals as it is typically lower. Noted chicken-egg issue with APT committee requiring high IF journals for promotion while SB and academia more broadly is trying to promote publication in OA journals.
- 3) Possible Advocacy Routes
 - a. Draft USRC letter to support pilot of Article Galaxy Scholar pilot and increased funding for the library to offset inflation.
 - b. Get involved in APT committee guidelines regarding journal IF
 - c. Advocate through professional organizations for fairer publishing policies
- 4) SB recently became members of the HathiTrust Digital Library. Gives access to many publications.

2023-2024 Meeting Dates:

September 8th

October 13th (canceled)

November 10th (Miguel Garcia-Diaz, VPR, will be the guest speaker)

December 8th (Jamie Saragossi, Interim Associate Dean of Collection Strategy and Management, will be the guest speaker)

February 16th

March 8th

April 12th

May 10th

