

Resolution in Support of Open Access and Authors' Rights

Whereas, the mission of Pacific University is to promote an environment of discovery through a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, to collaborative scholarly and creative activities, to sustainable practices, to promotion of diverse perspectives, and to civic engagement; and

Whereas, the ability of Pacific University faculty, staff and students, as well as others outside of our community, to actively participate in such an environment is dependent on equitable access to knowledge and scholarship; and

Whereas, much scholarship is published in journals whose costs have risen far more rapidly than inflation, thereby *limiting* access to knowledge and thus limiting its potential application by those who cannot afford access; and

Whereas, the costs for textbooks and related educational resources place a burden on students and create barriers to learning; and

Whereas, publishing decisions sometimes place undue importance on knowledge that is salable to the broadest audience, reducing opportunities to share findings or diverse perspectives that are deemed less marketable or interesting; and

Whereas, the publication agreements offered by some publishers limit authors' rights to make their work openly accessible to others who may benefit from it; and

Whereas, this current system for the dissemination of knowledge and scholarship is fiscally unsustainable and restricts rather than increases access to knowledge; and

Whereas, the Pacific University Library has established an online, freely accessible and searchable repository, *CommonKnowledge*, for the dissemination and preservation of scholarly and creative works created by members of the University community; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that

A. the faculty, staff and students of Pacific University, in recognition of their commitment to open intellectual exchange, both locally and globally, and to the equity and sustainability of access to knowledge, should consider these options when deciding how to share their work:

- depositing their own published scholarly and professional articles in *CommonKnowledge* or other open access repositories in order to provide the widest and most affordable access to their work; and
- using *CommonKnowledge* to openly share, as deemed appropriate by their department or school, other forms of unpublished scholarly, creative or professional work; and
- using an Addendum to Publication Agreement (such as that provided by the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)) in order to retain their right to share their published work as widely as possible; and
- investigating the pricing and authors' rights policies of journals with which they collaborate (as authors, reviewers, and editors) and advocating for improvements therein; and
- publishing their work in reasonably priced journals or in peer-reviewed open access journals; and

B. Pacific University Library will:

- maintain and further develop *CommonKnowledge*, open access publishing opportunities and related services; and
- provide University-wide education, workshops and other training opportunities related to alternative publishing models, practices and opportunities; and
- allocate personnel time to facilitate the deposit of Pacific University faculty, staff and student work in *CommonKnowledge*, to confirm the legality of all previously published deposits and to obtain publishers' permission to deposit published works when possible; and
- serve as a resource for inquiries regarding journal publishers, pricing, and authors' rights.