



**DISCUSSION DRAFT**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**XXXXXX, 2018**

**TO: Members of the Board of Trustees**  
**FROM: Kristina Johnson, Chancellor**  
**SUBJECT: Campus Open Access Policies and System Repository**

**Action Requested**

The proposed resolution directs the development of campus-specific open access policies for faculty and student scholarship and creative works and the creation of searchable repositories.

**Resolution**

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas State University of New York faculty and students routinely produce scholarly and creative works that are of public interest, inform the works of other scholars, and promote scholarly activities in their respective fields; and

Whereas the dissemination and sharing of published scholarship or creative works is the cornerstone of communication among scholars; and

Whereas approximately 57 percent of SUNY research and scholarship is supported by either direct federal agency grants or federal funding channeled through state agencies; and

Whereas many federal agencies are instituting requirements about public accessibility to the final work product of efforts they fund; and

Whereas access to scholarly journals has become increasingly cost-prohibitive for SUNY faculty, staff and students, and for the libraries that support them; and

Whereas best practices in the development of open access policies include:

- respect for and protection of faculty and student ownership, allowing decisions about where to publish and when to make an article or other scholarly/creative work accessible using such strategies as a waiver process or an embargo until a designated date post publication in a journal;
- flexibility for scholars/creators in choosing the terms of use and licensing associated with each article/work such as whether it can be used for commercial or non-commercial use, copied, edited, remixed and built upon;
- issuance of an addendum for each article/work that authors can provide to publishers notifying them of the open access policy; and

Whereas several SUNY campuses and institutions of higher education nationally have developed optional repositories for faculty to archive and make available their published scholarship; and

Whereas the Office of the University Provost currently maintains an optional repository for campuses to utilize that could be further expanded; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that each State-operated campus will develop and adopt—via a consultative process that follows local faculty governance procedures and includes the faculty and student protections and best practices identified in this resolution—an open access policy that recognizes each campus's unique mission and culture by no later than June 30, 2019; and be it further

Resolved that each community college is encouraged to develop and adopt an open access policy consistent with this resolution; and be it further

Resolved that the University Provost will work with the SUNY library community to ensure that every SUNY faculty member and student has access to a repository and associated services, and that all SUNY repositories be integrated and searchable via a single interface; and be it further

Resolved that each campus open access policy shall be consistent with the rights and responsibilities set forth in the Board of Trustees Policies, Article XI, Title J: Patents, Inventions and Copyright Policy, as codified in Sections 335.28 and 335.29 of Title 8 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York; and be it further

Resolved the Chancellor and Provost will work with campus leadership, faculty, students and other key stakeholders to implement this Resolution, including the continued consultation with faculty governance and the provision of any necessary training, and shall report periodically to the Board of Trustees any additional steps that may be needed to ensure the successful implementation of this resolution.

### Background

Open Access is defined as typically free, immediate, online availability of scholarly and creative works that permits users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of articles for any lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the Internet.

Open Access has become more common as the cost of maintaining access to scholarly journals has grown increasingly prohibitive. Open Access has become more common as the cost of maintaining access to scholarly journals has grown increasingly prohibitive. SUNY libraries have worked collaboratively to control costs and maintain access. Despite the increased investment, however, SUNY's relative access to information has actually declined with rising costs, forcing decisions about purchasing only those materials deemed absolutely necessary. This is occurring at the same time as federal funding agencies are instituting transparency and access requirements for the scholarship their funding supports.

Recognizing that faculty priorities regarding scholarship vary by individual, discipline, and institution, this Resolution calls for the collaborative development of campus policies that respect ownership as delineated above and incorporate best practices as outlined herein.