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February 21, 2018

Professor Shane White
Chair, Academic Senate
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

SUBJECT: Review of Proposed New Open Access Policy – Theses & Dissertations

Dear Shane:

The proposed Open Access Policy for Theses and Dissertations was circulated to the San Diego Divisional Academic Senate standing committees for review, and was discussed at the San Diego Divisional Senate Council meeting on February 12, 2018. A strong majority of the San Diego Divisional Senate Council did not endorse the proposal in its present form. Senate Council's concerns are summarized below.

Reviewers expressed concern that the proposed two-year embargo period may not be sufficient for certain disciplines, and suggested that department chairs be given the opportunity to review the thesis/dissertation and have the option to suggest an embargo period that could exceed two years.

Reviewers noted the importance of ensuring that students are given sufficient notice prior to filing their theses and dissertations, and suggested the development of a better process/procedure to ensure that students are given adequate notice and information about the open access policy.

It was pointed out that faculty have the ability to opt out of releasing their academic work, and it was suggested that students may have similar needs to delay the release of their theses and dissertations that are not taken into account in this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Farrell Ackerman'.

Farrell Ackerman, Chair
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

cc: H. Baxter R. Horwitz R. Rodriguez