UCLA *Academic Senate*

March 13, 2018

Shane White
Chair, Academic Council

RE: Systemwide Senate Review: Proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and
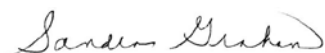   Dissertations

Dear Shane,

The Executive Board of the UCLA Academic Senate discussed the Proposed Presidential Policy on Open
Access for Theses and Dissertations at its meeting on March 8, 2018. The Executive Board solicited
comments from standing committees of the Senate; the individual responses from our various
committees follow.

Overall, committee members agreed with the proposed policy. That said, several Executive Board
members echoed the concerns raised by the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication
(COLASC). For students in disciplines where dissertations are more likely to be book-length manuscripts
and the student wishes to publish his/her dissertation as a book, the two year embargo may not be long
enough.   Senate Executive Board recommended a five year embargo instead as standard practice if
requested by the student. COLASC also noted "since the students will retain copyright on their
dissertations, requiring a petition to the administration for a longer embargo is counter to the spirit of
ownership that students should have in their own work." Finally, several members noted that the current
UC open access policies for Academic Senate and non-Senate authors focuses on scholarly articles, not
books. Thus, stating that the new policy for graduate student theses and dissertations extends existing
policy to create systemwide uniformity is not accurate.

The Executive Board appreciates the opportunity to opine. Please feel free to contact me should have any
questions.

Sincerely,

Sandra Graham
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

cc: Hilary Baxter, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate
        Joe Bristow, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
        Susan Cochran, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
        Michael LaBriola, Principal Policy Analyst, Systemwide Academic Senate
        Linda Mohr, Chief Administrative Officer, UCLA Academic Senate