

March 13, 2018

Shane White  
Chair, Academic Council

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

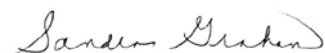
Dear Shane,

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