

# UCLA MEMORANDUM

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FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
*College of Letters and Science*

A265 Murphy Hall  
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**To:** Joseph Bristow, Chair, Academic Senate

**Fr:** Jeffrey Lewis, Vice Chair, College Faculty Executive Committee

**Date:** February 26, 2019

**Re:** **College FEC response to Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations**

The College FEC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations. We reviewed the proposed revision at our meeting on February 15, 2019. We were joined by Victor Valdez of the Graduate Division to highlight the key components of the document.

We were pleased to learn that UCLA is already in compliance with this proposed presidential policy as theses and dissertations are submitted to our institutional repository, ProQuest, and made publicly available through its eScholarship digital repository.

Members did, however, raise concerns about the length and availability of embargo periods under the open access policy. As noted during the first systemwide review of this policy, strictly limited embargo periods may, in some cases, limit any author's ability publish work arising from her dissertation and also reduced the scholarly impact that such publications have, especially in the humanities. It is the Committee's understanding that an exception to the embargo period limit will now be granted if a publisher of a book arising from a dissertation demands such an exception. The Committee believes that it would be desirable for similar embargo limit exceptions be made available at an author's request in any instance in which a book manuscript arising from a dissertation is under contract with a publisher regardless of whether the publisher explicitly demands it. More generally, we hope that the embargo exception policy will be designed and implemented in a way that is sensitive to a broader set of author concerns and to variation in the culture and professional practice that exists across the academy.

As always, our membership appreciates the consultative process and welcomes the opportunity to participate in the discussion of important matters like this. You are welcome to contact me at [jblewis@polisci.ucla.edu](mailto:jblewis@polisci.ucla.edu) with questions. Mitsue Yokota, Academic Administrator, is also available to assist you and she can be reached at (310) 794-5665 or [myokota@college.ucla.edu](mailto:myokota@college.ucla.edu).

cc: Lucy Blackmar, Assistant Vice Provost, Undergraduate Education Initiatives  
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