

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

1580H Memorial Union
Ames, Iowa 50011
515.294.1585
www.stugov.iastate.edu

1 2019-2020
2 3rd Session

3 **2019-3-0XX SR**

4
5 In the Iowa State University Student Government Senate
6 January 15, 2020

7 Senator Stanley (for himself and Senator Heasley) introduced the following resolution.

8
9 **A RESOLUTION**

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11 TITLE: Endorsing the University Library’s Principles for Advancing Openness through Journal
12 Negotiations

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14 WHEREAS: In the last two years, university libraries nationwide have begun to take stronger stances
15 during negotiations with journal publishers with the aim of procuring fair and reasonable
16 subscription and publication costs, and

17
18 WHEREAS: This also helps further the noble goal of free and open access to research papers and
19 findings for all who wish to peruse them, and

20
21 WHEREAS: As a land-grant institution, Iowa State University was founded with an imperative to
22 disseminate the knowledge created here for the benefit of Iowans and the world at large,
23 and

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25 WHEREAS: Journal publishers use predatory tactics such as forcing researchers to sign over the bulk
26 of the intellectual rights to their own works as a condition for publishing and compelling
27 universities to sign non-disclosure agreements regarding the details of their subscriptions
28 to extort tremendous profit margins from universities which in some cases exceed 30
29 percent, and

30
31 WHEREAS: Iowa State University has been and is currently a victim of these tactics, as the University
32 Library pays a substantially disproportionate rate for the services of some journal
33 publishers when compared to many peer institutions, and

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35 WHEREAS: Cancellation of journal subscriptions has been used as a successful strategy by
36 universities which refuse to submit to these underhanded tricks any longer, most notably
37 by the University of California during their negotiations with the journal publisher
38 Elsevier in 2019, and

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40 WHEREAS: The example of the University of California, as well as landmark agreements regarding
41 cost reduction and open access in France and Germany, provide an opportunity to explore
42 previously infeasible possibilities in our own negotiations with journal publishers, and

43
44 WHEREAS: The University Library has released a document titled, “Principles for Advancing
45 Openness through Journal Negotiations,” which details the stance that the Library will
46 take during negotiations moving forward in order to advance the joint goals of open
47 access and proportional costs, and

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49 WHEREAS: The Library Advisory Committee and the Faculty Senate have both endorsed this
50 document, be it therefore

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52 RESOLVED: That the Iowa State University Student Government endorse this document and affirm
53 their support for any action the University Library may take during these negotiations
54 which adheres to these principles, and be it further
55

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- 1 RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be sent to President Wendy Wintersteen, Senior Vice
- 2 President and Provost Jonathan Wickert, Interim Library Dean Hilary Seo, and Associate
- 3 University Librarian for Scholarly Communication and Collections Curtis Brundy.