

Board Meeting  
May 19, 2016

APPROVE POLICY ON OPEN ACCESS TO RESEARCH  
ARTICLES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

**Action:** Approve Policy on Open Access to Research Articles at the University of Illinois

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Governor of the State of Illinois signed into law the “Open Access to Research Articles Act” Senate Bill 1900 on August 21, 2013. The provisions of the Act, affecting public universities within the State of Illinois, describe its purpose to: (1) maximize the social and economic benefits of research to the public; (2) increase the impact that broad public dissemination of research has on the public; (3) provide free access to research articles by the faculty of Illinois’ public universities via the internet; and, (4) work to resolve restrictions with publication agreements to make research materials available to the public.

In order to achieve these ends the Act required each public university to establish a task force comprised of voting and non-voting members, appointed by the chairperson of the Board of Trustees with advice and consent of that Board. The Board adopted a Resolution establishing such a task force at its meeting on November 14, 2013. As of January 1, 2015, the task force adopted and submitted a report to the Governor containing recommendations and findings including a detailed description of a proposed

open access policy and a plan for its implementation, directing the University Senates Conference to recommend a policy for the University of Illinois.

On February 22, 2016, University Senates Conference asserted that “[t]he policy on Open Access has been reviewed by all three senates and we recommend forwarding for adoption.”

The policy on Open Access applies to scholarly articles produced by all University tenure-system faculty and administrators responsible for academic affairs. It calls for granting the University license to make articles “widely and freely available” while maintaining authors’ copyright ownership. Faculty may direct that specific articles not be shared or that sharing be delayed. Each Senate and Provost’s Office will be jointly responsible for implementation. The policy is to be reviewed within three years with reports to the Senates and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs recommends approval.

The President of the University concurs.