




January 16, 2018

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Lisa Raphals, Vice Chair 
Committee on Library and Information Technology

Re: 17-18. Systemwide Review. Proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations

The Committee on Library and Information Technology reviewed the 17-18. Systemwide Review. Proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations at their January 16, 2017 meeting and offers three comments and suggestions:

- The LIT committee thinks that the default should be open access, but where all students have the ability to embargo (opt out of open access) for up to 5 years, without petition. Members of the committee felt that two years was too little for some fields, and that it was important to protect authors' intellectual property rights.
- In exceptional cases, it should be possible to extend the 5-year embargo period to eight years by petition. (A mechanism would need to be developed to address such petitions.)
- The document as it stands does not address an important potential for conflict of interest: namely when a dissertation author wishes open access and his/her supervisor (also possibly representing the interests of other collaborating grad students) wishes embargo. This situation could arise in cases where open access publication could cause harm to collaborators by revealing their methodologies or strategies prematurely. We were unable to suggest an immediate solution to this problem. But we do point out that it is important and needs to be addressed.