

TO: COLD

March 11, 2021

FROM: Shared Resources & Digital Content (SRDC) Steering Committee

RE: Transformative Agreements and the CSU

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The SRDC Steering Committee, in consultation with SDLC Staff and after reviewing a Transformative Agreement/Open Access (TA/OA) offer from the American Chemical Society is asking COLD to re-consider the circumstances which enable and support TA/OA for the CSU.

In sum, we are asking COLD to consider the complex and varied, and in most cases, absent means of support for dramatically changing the subscription model to move from Read to Read/Publish with OA for CSU authors. In the SRDC's estimation we will need COLD to develop a clear strategy and identify and maintain a source of funds to support the current limiting factor in enabling a move to TA/OA, that is the payment of Article-Processing Fees.

FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. The TA/OA pilot with Elsevier has features which are very specific to that current agreement. This agreement expires at the end of 2021. The agreement features OA publishing in Elsevier journal titles without applying Article Processing Charges (APC). This feature of TA/OA agreements, i.e. application of APCs, is central to the full adoption of TA/OA agreements between publishers and subscribers.
2. The ACM TA/OA offer, what we know of a potential Springer-Nature offer and a very preliminary offer from Cambridge University Press do not include "free" or no-cost APC fees.
3. One example: The ACM offer re-balanced the current subscription model to reflect new fees that would be paid by campuses which publish with their society (i.e. incorporating the APCs into an annual subscription rate for those campuses). Three campuses (Cal Poly-SLO, SJSU and SDSU) would see their annual subscriber fee move from \$7,288 to \$12,500, \$17,500 and \$10,000 respectively, with the remaining campuses paying \$2,500 each. The current rate for "Read only" is \$6,375 for each campus.

The significant load on library budgets, along with the particularly profound negative of this re-balancing from "Read" to "Publish/Read" in the above example would allow for some relief for many libraries while putting undue pressure on others.

4. Absent 1) A central source of funds to support APCs 2) Systemwide OA publishing mandates or incentives that are funded 2) Concerted efforts to identify, organize and streamline APC payments from sources other than library budgets, the SDRC finds itself at an impasse in moving forward.