



Resolution In Support of Fair and Reasonable CSU Negotiations with Elsevier

Whereas: The California State University (CSU) has had an online journal subscription agreement with Elsevier since the late 1990s and pursuant to the latest contract, this subscription expires on December 31, 2019; and

Whereas: This contract has allowed the CSU Fullerton community to have access to a large array of high-quality materials that are indispensable to learning, teaching and research, including 1,441 current journal titles of the 3,412 that Elsevier markets; and

Whereas: In 2019, the CSU paid \$3,949,602 for its subscription to current journals in Elsevier's ScienceDirect, a 4.5% increase over the previous year; and

Whereas: The CSU Fullerton portion of this subscription cost for the calendar year 2019 was \$300,247.85, consuming 15% of Pollak Library's materials expenditures for the 2018–2019 fiscal year and representing twice the total amount spent on book purchases for all disciplines; and

Whereas: CSU campuses, in cooperation with the CSU Chancellor's Office, have been negotiating the terms of a new contract with Elsevier; and

Whereas: The University of California (UC) system sought to negotiate a contract with Elsevier for access to ScienceDirect offerings, such negotiations met an impasse, and the contract lapsed after UC had paid Elsevier more than \$11 million annually; and

Whereas: Universities across Europe, in countries such as Germany, Sweden, and Norway, have cancelled subscriptions with Elsevier after failed negotiations; and

Whereas: The Consumer Price Index increased 73% between 1986–2004, while research library expenditures for serial publications increased 273% during that period; and

Whereas: The relentless rise in subscription costs for Elsevier and other journal bundles has serious ramifications, including that less access to research is bad for science; and

Whereas: The escalating costs mean that, over time, CSU libraries have purchased fewer titles, greatly hampering the ability of the libraries to support emerging fields and inhibiting a diverse representation of ideas and research; and

Whereas: Elsevier has, in effect, gained a monopoly over the publication of and access to high-quality peer reviewed outlets; therefore, be it

Resolved: That the CSUF Academic Senate calls upon Elsevier to negotiate earnestly and in good faith with the CSU and Chancellor's Office to reach a fair and reasonable agreement on a new contract; and be it further

Resolved: That the CSUF Academic Senate expresses its complete solidarity and stands united with the CSU and Chancellor's Office in their negotiations with Elsevier, additionally requesting that all Senators advocate for support of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved: That the CSUF Academic Senate believes a fair and reasonable ScienceDirect contract with Elsevier should be negotiated and request the Chancellor direct the CSU negotiators to pursue the goals of reducing CSU expenditures while maintaining access to current holdings; and be it further

Resolved: That the CSUF Academic Senate requests affirmation from campus administration in supporting the CSU taking a strong stance in negotiations with Elsevier because it will have the salutary effect of engendering meaningful change in the way faculty research is bought, sold, and shared with the world, thereby better compensating faculty for their hard work and effort; and be it further

Resolved: That the CSUF Academic Senate recommends and requests that if Elsevier does not negotiate a contract that is deemed fair and reasonable by CSU negotiators, the Chancellor direct the CSU negotiators to follow the lead of UC and aforementioned European universities and not enter into a new contract with Elsevier, and instead pursue alternative means with campus presidents to access scholarly works that are critical to the learning, teaching, and research of the CSU community; and be it further

Resolved: That the CSUF Academic Senate recommends and requests that if the CSU negotiators decline to enter into a new contract with Elsevier, the Chancellor will ask Administrative Officers at all campuses to follow the lead of the UC Provost and President by protecting the funds that would otherwise be allocated towards Elsevier with the intention that those funds be reallocated for alternative access to scholarly works; and be it further

Resolved: That the CSUF Academic Senate requests all Senators raise the issue of the CSU-Elsevier negotiations at the local level, support campus contingency planning in the event of non-renewal, and recommend that other CSU academic senates prepare their own resolutions to demonstrate unity with CSU negotiators at the campus level, thus strengthening the CSU's negotiating position; and be it finally

Resolved: That this resolution be distributed to the CSU Chancellor, CSU Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, CSU Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic programs, Innovation and Faculty Development; the CSUF President, the CSUF Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, CSU Senate Chairs, and to the Academic Senate of the California State University.

Background:

CSU Libraries. (October 15, 2019). Elsevier FAQs. Retrieved from <https://libraries.calstate.edu/elsevier/>

SUNY University Faculty Senate. (October 10-12, 2019). Resolution: Support for SUNY Negotiations for a fair and reasonable contract with Elsevier. Retrieved from <https://www.binghamton.edu/faculty-senate/agendas/docs/11-12-2019/ufs-resolution-elsevier-101019.pdf>

Qureshi, F. (March 19, 2019). Norway joins the ranks of Germany and Sweden, cancels subscription with Elsevier. Retrieved from <https://www.editage.com/insights/norway-joins-the-ranks-of-germanyand-sweden-cancels-subscription-with-elsevier>

University of California Office of Scholarly Communication. (July 10, 2019). UC and Elsevier: Overview – Office of Scholarly Communication. Retrieved from <https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/open-access-at-uc/publisher-negotiations/uc-and-elsevier/>