

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
December 7, 2007

The Library Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS University of Rhode Island's commitment to the free and open publication, presentation and discussion of research advances the interests of the scholarly community, the faculty individually, and the public, and

WHEREAS certain publishers of scholarly journals continually raise their prices far above the level that could be reasonably justified by their costs, and

WHEREAS the activities of these publishers directly depend upon the continued participation of faculty at University of Rhode Island and similar institutions acting as editors, reviewers, and authors, and

WHEREAS a lasting solution to this problem requires not only interim measures but also a long range plan, and

WHEREAS publication in open access journals and repositories is an increasingly effective option for scholarly communication,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Senate calls upon all faculty to become familiar with the pricing policies of journals in their specialty.

The Senate strongly urges tenured faculty to cease supporting publishers who engage in exorbitant pricing, by not submitting papers to, or refereeing for, the journals sold by those publishers, and by resigning from their editorial boards if more reasonable pricing policies are not forthcoming.

The Senate strongly urges the University Library to negotiate vigorously with publishers who engage in exorbitant pricing and to reduce serial acquisitions from these publishers based on a reasonable measure of those subscriptions' relative importance to the collection, taking into account any particular needs of scholars in certain disciplinary areas.

The Senate strongly encourages all faculty, and especially tenured faculty, to consider publishing in open access, rather than restricted access, journals or in reasonably priced journals that make their contents openly accessible shortly after publication.

The Senate strongly urges all faculty to negotiate with the journals in which they publish either to retain copyright rights and transfer only the right of first print and electronic publication, or to retain at a minimum the right of postprint archiving.

The Senate strongly urges all faculty to deposit preprint or postprint copies of articles in an open access repository such as discipline-specific repositories or the University of Rhode Island's Digital Commons Repository.

(Adapted from the Cornell University Faculty Senate resolution on scholarly publishing, passed 11 May 2005)