

**Rules Committee
October 24, 2014**

Attendance

Marilyn Billings
Nancy Cohen
Dick Bogartz
MJ Peterson
Ernie May
Susan Whitbourne
Anurag Sharma

Guest Peter Suber

Discussion with Guest Peter Suber:

Marilyn: In 2007, resolution on open access. Peter here to help address current questions.

May: Efforts to promote open access ran into challenges, especially in the sciences. At our institution, the challenge is how to build participation.

Suber: Harvard like 9 separate institutions, not possible to adopt a single policy -- needed to develop participation school by school. First, Arts & Sciences. Last, was Medical School, adopted yesterday. In contrast to the resolution here, the policy includes a requirement to (1) deposit scholarly materials in the university repository and (2) grant the right to the institution to distribute the material.

Whitbourne: Journals object due to financial exigency.

Suber: All authors have to do is mark a publication to receive a waiver that would restrict public access. We give waivers no-questions-asked. Very few authors ask for waivers because few publishers (3) require it. The repository does not include the published PDF -- instead it includes the peer-reviewed manuscript.

Cohen: How does that work with multiple authors?

Suber: As long as one author is a member of the institution with the covering policy, its enough to notify the other authors that the publication will be covered by the policy.

Whitbourne: How does open access affect impact factor?

Suber: It has no effect, except increasing citations.

May: Does the policy discourage publishers from publishing book manuscripts?

Suber: In some cases, but most publishers do not regard open access as a problem -- in fact, it helps them discover good manuscripts.

May: Among people who should be championing this, there's been no reaction. We'd adopted the Princeton model.

Suber: Currently there's no difference between Princeton and Harvard. It's a people problem -- you need someone who can champion it to the researchers.

Peterson: Is there some trend or event on the horizon that could galvanize action?

Suber: The primary motivating factor for faculty is not serial prices: it's sharing their research. It has benefits for libraries, but only long term. IF enough schools do this, it will help, but the primary motivating factor is for researchers disseminating their scholarship.

Bogartz: How can this help libraries without affecting journals?

Suber: Currently penetration open access is small enough that it's not affecting subscription rates: subscription loss is largely due to very high prices. Some (800) journals have already converted their business model to favor open access. These societies have used open access as a survival strategy.

Sharma: How does the economics work?

Suber: Most charge publication fee -- usually paid the author's employer or funding agency.

Whitbourne: Publication fees are inflating the budgets of grants. Journals that charged by page have often been second-rate journals.

Suber: It turns out that 70% of subscription journal charge publication (color or page) fees. Only 30% of open access journals charge.

Cohen: If everyone went open access, would it end up costing the University more (to publish their own plus paying publication costs of authors)?

Suber: It's hard to know because the question depends on many assumptions. In a future with all journals being open access, universities would not pay more unless all journals started requiring fees from all authors. Granting agencies are likely to pay enough that the cost won't fall solely on Universities?

Whitbourne: Does UMass have a fund to pay these fees for authors?

Billings: Yes - just announced.

Suber: Most scholars now start with Google, which emphasizes open access. The indexing services that don't necessarily include open access.

May (to Billings): Can we get a list of the most expensive journals? Those are the departments where we might look for a champion. It's a worthwhile project: it's a challenge to get it on the agenda of the people who count.

Billings: What does the journal need money to provide?

Whitbourne: Funds required to pay the editor & provide a stipend for a grad assistant and to pay production costs.

Peterson: I worked on a journal that functionally self-published: paid copy editor, paid printer who delivered copies to us, we mailed out. Now published by publisher. Now publisher does printing and fulfillment, etc. As long as you're still in the world of hard-copy you need a publisher.

Suber: There is now free software that can support most of the clerical work associated with peer review. The quality doesn't suffer with open access -- just the funding model. It's important to separate the issues: its not about books, dissertations, its about journal articles. Its not about subscriptions or journals, it's about what faculty do with their manuscripts -- and they can always get a waiver. The version in the repository isn't the citable version. The repository can take steps to ensure that the citable version is easy to find (include citation and link). I have a book "Open Access" (which became open access after one year).

Rules Committee Agenda

Agenda of the 742nd Faculty Senate meeting

There will be one more meeting to discuss. Questions about moving forward with bylaw changes will be considered in light of information to be received from Provost regarding college budget councils. Moving forward with Ombuds search will be considered in light of information to be received in lunch with Bob Feldman next week. The report of the Ombuds Ad Hoc committee reflects the state prior to negotiation with Rules Committee and administration. The Rules Committee may create a supplementary report that will supersede the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Discussion Items

Regarding first-year seminars, Cohen reports that the administration is moving forward identifying students to teach seminars.

Cohen inquires whether students will no longer be categorized "Undeclared". May reports that students upon admission will all be assigned to a College which will categorize them somehow.

Respectfully submitted by Steven D. Brewer