



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

January 16, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I write on behalf of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS), representing the graduate-professional student governments of 45 institutions across the United States, to express our strong support for a national open access policy in the United States. As students, educators, researchers, and taxpayers, we deserve full and immediate access to the articles, data, and code produced with funding from US federal science agencies.

As graduate students we serve our institutions of higher education as researchers, educators, and students. Access to the most current research is essential for us to continue to advance the frontiers of human knowledge, and to provide and receive a complete and up-to-date education. Research articles, a large portion of which are government-funded, are the building blocks of our education, from the core to the cutting edge. A zero-embargo policy will ensure that students, both graduate and undergraduate, get the full benefit of our collective investment in scientific discovery. Advances in scientific discovery are necessary for the United States to maintain our position as global leaders in technological innovation and are essential for ensuring national security. Furthermore, implementing a zero-embargo policy, that would make the results of taxpayer-funded research immediately available for the public to freely access, will not only improve undergraduate and graduate education, but will benefit students when it comes to putting their education to use after graduation, enabling them to contribute to economic growth in both the public and private sectors.

Under the current system, no college or university – even well-funded private institutions like Harvard – can afford to subscribe to all of the scientific journals that their faculty, researchers, and students require. As a result, major university library systems (most notably the University of California System) have publicly stated that the current system is broken, and that they will no longer pay to subscribe to expensive journal packages. Students and educators have long recognized the opportunity that providing immediate, barrier-free, online access presents to working faster, by enabling them to get to research articles and incorporate new findings into their research more rapidly. This, in turn, will allow users to stay abreast of cutting-edge ideas and generate new uses and applications for research, ensuring that U.S. higher education



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institutions can provide the best possible education to all students – and that students can benefit from their education to the fullest extent possible. Immediate access to scientific discovery is also a key factor in creating and maintaining an environment conducive to continual innovation.

The future of our country rests squarely on the shoulders of today's and tomorrow's students. We respectfully request that the Administration issue a policy requiring immediate open access to all articles resulting from publicly funded research and that the data underlying this research be made immediately available under the terms and conditions that allow their full reuse. We firmly believe that a national open access policy will advance science, improve the quality of graduate education, and provide significant benefits to the wider public.

Sincerely,
Brad Sommer

President
NAGPS

Mike Ford

Director of Legislative Affairs
NAGPS

On behalf of the graduate-professional student governments at the following universities :

Arizona State University
Arkansas Tech University
Baylor University
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Mellon University
Cleveland State University
Colorado School of Mines
Columbia University
Duke University
Eastern Illinois University
Eastern Tennessee State University
Grand Valley State University
Johns Hopkins University
Kent State University
Lehigh University



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Massachusetts Institute of University
Northern Arizona State University
Oklahoma State University
Penn State University
Purdue University
Stony Brook University
Syracuse University
The Ohio State University
The Universities at Shady Grove
The University of Maine
Tufts University
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of California, Davis
University of California, San Diego
University of Central Florida
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of Missouri
University of Nevada-Reno
University of North Carolina Greensboro
University of North Texas
University of Southern California
University of Virginia
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Western Michigan University

cc: Mick Mulvaney, Acting White House Chief of Staff and Director, Office of
Management and Budget
Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy