



President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dr. Alondra Nelson
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
1650 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20504

August 31st, 2022

Dear President Biden and Dr. Alondra Nelson,

On behalf of the University of California Graduate & Professional Council (UCGPC), I write today to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the updated policy guidance issued by the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy that will make taxpayer-funded research immediately available for the public to freely access and fully use. We applaud the administration for eliminating the current 12-month waiting period for access to critical research outputs — both articles and data.

The University of California Graduate & Professional Council represents the ~60,000 graduate and professional students at the UC. This updated policy guidance will immediately and positively affect the current and future UC graduate student community in several ways, including increasing transparency in taxpayer-funded research and promoting equity in the publishing of and access to federally funded research. The result will be faster progress toward curing diseases, preventing pandemics, mitigating climate change, and addressing inequities in research publication and access.

This policy guidance is the culmination of more than 15 years of steady progress. It provides a much-needed update to strengthen U.S. policy that will bring our country to equal footing with governments across the world that have established strong open access policies to promote innovation. As your Administration works across the federal agencies to implement your executive order, we urge you to ensure that the new policy is implemented fairly, with additional input from the research and academic community.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with your administration to support this important policy guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hayden Schill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hayden Schill
President
University of California, Graduate & Professional Council