

Proposition: 05-24/25

Proposal Type: Bill Resolution Memorial Joint Proposition Other
(If Joint proposition, also select type)

Title: Establishing Continuing Support for Open Access Publication Costs

Date Submitted: 10.10.24

Sponsor(s): K. Finlator (A&S); F. Arslan (CoB)

Proposed Committee: University Planning or Budget and Resources

Prior Approvals: N/A, none needed.

Proposal: We call on the NMSU Administration to collaborate with the NMSU Faculty Senate in developing policies and procedures that are required to distribute financial support to faculty who do not have any existing research grants or other financial resources, and who need supplemental support in order to publish scholarly research in Open Access (OA) publications. Policies and procedures should also be developed for reviewing and adapting the Open Access Publication Fund (OAPF) on an annual basis. Such discussions should work towards three goals:

- (1) Establish a rigorous method for allocating funds from the OAPF. We recommend the formation of a diverse panel of five faculty members representing each of the NMSU colleges (except the Honors College), provisionally named the OA Publication Fund Allocation Committee (OAPFAC), to be drawn either from the Faculty Senate or from the general faculty. The OAPFAC would be responsible for reading and evaluating applications for support from the OAPF following a rubric that is, in turn, to be anchored in the guidelines laid out in Proposition 07-23/24. It would operate much as a grant allocation committee would.
- (2) Decide on the metrics that the OAPFAC should compile on an annual basis in order to evaluate how the funds are used and to what extent they contribute to NMSU faculty success. At a minimum, we recommend that the following metrics be collected:
 - a. the number of applications received and the fraction of those that are deemed eligible according to the guidelines in Proposition 07-23/24
 - b. the distribution of eligible request sizes, actual grant sizes, and total publication costs for the publications for which OAPF support is granted
 - c. the number of requests originating from, and the number of grants allocated to, differing Colleges or Units
- (3) Establish a mechanism for determining, on an annual basis and in collaboration with NMSU Faculty Senate, whether the OAPF should be augmented or tightened based on fund availability and on the annual OAPFAC report.

Rationale: The NMSU Faculty Senate recently passed Proposition 07-23/24 (as amended by Proposition 04-24/25), calling on the NMSU Administration to allocate 0.5% of IDC annually to support under-resourced faculty who wish to publish in OA journals. However, no mechanism was described for allocating those funds, for tracking how they are used, and for reviewing, on an annual basis, how the stated request of 0.5% of IDC compares to actual faculty need.

It is of clear interest that the funds be allocated in a fair and rigorous way that adheres to the guidelines enumerated in Proposition 07-23/24. The simplest way to achieve this is through the formation of a University-wide committee that evaluates and responds to request in much the same way that other resource allocation committees do; indeed, this is a job with which faculty are familiar and comfortable. It also is of clear interest to the faculty that metrics be collected annually in order to determine whether the OAPF should be augmented in a subsequent year. Finally, it is of clear interest to NMSU Administration that the OAPF's size match faculty needs rather than exceeding them, and that the fund's success in promoting faculty scholarship be documented.

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