Proposition: 07-23/24

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

Title: Call for NMSU leadership to establish a fund for open access article publishing/processing charges for tenured, tenure-eligible, and non-tenure-track faculty, research scientists, research scholars, research center directors, and librarians.
Date Submitted:
Sponsor(s): Taryn Price-Lopez (DACC), Susan Beck (Library), Sangu Angadi (PES-ACES), Faruk Arslan (College of Business)
Proposed Committee:
Prior Approvals:

Proposal: Faculty Senate requests that the upper administration make a commitment to establish funds to support the cost of article processing/publication for tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure-track faculty, research scientists, research scholars, research center directors, and librarians.

It is highly recommended that funding is sourced from IDC monies. The total fund amount may fluctuate from year to year depending on the fiscal budget but should remain at a minimum of 0.5% of annual NMSU grant funding each year. Funds not used during the fiscal year shall roll over into the next year. Once the fund is depleted, there will be no further funding for the fiscal year.

Faculty Senate recommends these funds be located in the Vice President for Research's office, where there is precedent for internal funding opportunities, and that the following criteria be considered when establishing the application procedures:

1. An application must be submitted and approved.
    a. The application approval process involves review by the committee which is composed of representatives from all Colleges across the University.
2. Up to 100% of the charge may be covered, not to exceed $2000.
3. The research must be completed in the capacity of employment at NMSU.
4. Statement saying there is no grant money or external funding to support open access publishing.
5. Applicants cannot have paid the publisher in advance, *there will be no reimbursements*.
6. The journal should be fully open access or hybrid and peer-reviewed and listed on the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) or other database of legitimate, non-predatory journals. Before funding is awarded, a review of the publisher may be completed to ensure it is not a predatory journal.
    a. Previously published articles converted to open-access publishers are eligible.
    b. Green open access shall be excluded.
7. Only articles with a status of "accepted" or analogous “pending” status are eligible.
    a. Articles already published and articles still in the draft stage are not eligible.
8. Co-authors who work on different publication projects are only eligible for one publication per award year.

9. The article must acknowledge the University Fund using the following (or very similar) text: "The publication fees for this article were supported by the NMSU Open Article Fund."
10. Applicants who receive funding are expected to submit a PDF copy of the published version to the NMSU University Library for inclusion of the article to NMSU repository at the time of publication.

Rationale:

- The Committee believes this fund is necessary, whereas:
- There is no annual recurring financial assistance for NMSU faculty who wish to publish scholarly articles in open-access journals.
- Both senior and junior faculty are expected to publish as a condition of promotion and tenure (and, thus, continued employment), it is logical to call on the institution to share some of the cost burden.
- The rising, unsustainable publication costs of high-quality academic journals have been a topic of contention for many years (Grossman & Brembs, 2021).
- Many professional society journals are converting to only open access journals, which is increasing publication costs many folds.
- Almost all federal funding agencies are insisting on open science or open data access or open access publishing (There may be better words needed).
- Often good part of publications are written after actual grant is completed. The high-quality research completed with grant funding has no money to publish in reputed journals.
- Even in open-access journals, article processing/publishing charges (APCs) can exceed US $10,000, depending on the publisher, category, and offerings (Du, 2022).

  Note: An APC is a charge to the author that may sometimes be the only revenue stream- as is the case for Frontiers (Frontiers Media, 2023).
- The University Libraries of The University of Denver (UD) (2023) cite their Provost supported APC pilot fund (which is in its second year) as a resource with the potential to "***remove barriers*** to researchers publishing in the venues of [faculty] choosing" and may result in more of their faculty's research being freely, immediately available worldwide.
- This could contribute significantly to the imminent ***R1 status of NMSU***.
- Extant literature supports this argument and provides robust evidence that open-access articles are cited more than non-open-access articles (Abbasi et al., 2019; Eysenbach, 2006; McCabe & Snyder, 2014; Razumova & Kuznetsov, 2019).

  Note: The Committee recognizes that UD is a private institution with a different financial structure from NMSU. However, the message of ***equity*** *in publishing still translates. Further, The University of Colorado, Colorado Springs is a public institution in the Southwest with dedicated monies to an open access fund to support faculty.*

References

Abbasi, Z., Shekofteh, M., Shahbodaghi, A., & Kazemi, E. (2019). Citation indicators' comparison of LIS open access and subscription publications based on Scopus. *Global Knowledge, Memory and Communication, 68*(4/5), 288–299. https://doi.org/10.1108/GKMC-022018-0016

Du, J. S. (2022, June 1). Opinion: Is open access worth the cost? *The Scientist.* Link

Eysenbach, G. (2006). Citation advantage of open access articles. PLoS biology, 4(5), e157. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.0040157

Frontiers Media. (2023). *Fee policy: Article publishing charges (APCs)*. Link

Grossman, A., & Brembs, B. (2021, July 1). Current market rate for the scholarly publishing services. *F1000Research.* Link

McCabe, M. J., & Snyder, C. M. (2014). Identifying the effect of open access on citations using a panel of science journals. *Economic Inquiry, 52*(4), 1284–1300. https://doi.org/10.1111/ecin.12064

Razumova, I. K., & Kuznetsov, A. (2019). Impact of Open Access Models on Citation Metrics. https://doi.org/10.1633/JISTaP.2019.7.2.2

University Libraries. (2023). *Open access publication equity fund*. The University of Denver. Link

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS). (n.d.). *Office of Research: Open Access*. Link

Vervoort, D., Ma, X., & Bookholane, H. (2021, December 31). Equitable open access publishing: Changing the financial power dynamics in academia. *Global Health Science and Practice, 9*(4), 733-736. Link

Further Resources

Office of Science and Technology Policy Memo
https://www.whitehouse.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2022/08/08-2022-OSTP-Public-Access-Memo.pdf

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8691877/

https://www.colorado.edu/libraries/research/open-access/open-access-fund

The Eigenfactor Index of Open Access Fees makes it easy for scholarly authors to engage in comparison shopping between scholarly journals.

OA Publication Funds part of the Open Access Directory hosted by Simmons College https://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/OA_publication_funds (Lists universities supporting OA)

SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) – sparc.org has a guide to campus-based publishing sources https://sparcopen.org/our-work/alternative-publishingmodels/campus-based-publishing-resources/ and also hosts a table of funds http://sparcopen.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/OA-Funds-in-Action-4.7.16.pdf

Cabell's Directory lists predatory journals https://nmsu.libguides.com/cabells (NMSU users only)

Web of Science (Includes Science Citation index, Social Science Citation Index and Arts & Humanities Citation Index) https://nmsu.libguides.com/wos (NMSU users only)