TO: Academic Council
FROM: P. Takis Metaxas, Prof. of Computer Science and Faculty Director, Scholarly Communications Group
RE: **Third year review of Open Access Policy**
DATE: April 6, 2016

On February 6, 2013, the Academic Council unanimously voted to adopt the Open Access Policy. The policy states that: "*Each faculty member grants to Wellesley College a nonexclusive, irrevocable, worldwide license to exercise any and all rights under copyright relating to each of his or her scholarly articles, in any medium, provided that the articles are not sold for profit, and to authorize others to do the same.*"

This policy effectively allows faculty members to retain the non-commercial rights of their publication by granting them and then getting them back through the College licence. Practically this is established through the submission of the final author's copy to our repository. Faculty have control on what they choose to cover under the OA Policy. For books or articles that the faculty may want to retain more rights or to give all their rights to a publisher through a contract, faculty can readily obtain a waiver of the policy.

The Academic Council's Advisory Committee on Library and Technology Policy is charged with overseeing the OA policy. The task of monitoring the application of the OA Policy was then transferred to the Scholarly Communications Group which currently is composed of a Faculty Director, P. Takis Metaxas, Prof. of Computer Science, and two Librarians: Graham Henderson, Collections Management Librarian and Copyright Officer, and Ray Schmidt, Assistant Director for Discovery Services.

The Policy was to be reviewed in 3 years time since its adoption. In these three years the SCG took the following actions:
- Implemented the practical aspects of enabling the application of the policy: As a result, so far 50 faculty members took advantage of the OA Policy and submitted 188 articles to our repository. As of Feb.2, 2016, these articles had been downloaded 36,649 times.
- Created a Web site with documentation about the policy. The web site includes a comprehensive FAQ list that answers most of the questions faculty may have about it.
- Created and distributed a brochure (attached to this report), that includes a quick explanation on author copyrights, and how to defend them.
- Created more awareness through a digital poster displayed at the TV screens around campus and helped faculty create personal accounts in the repository that provide detailed information on who downloads their work.
- Hosted a talk and discussion by expert Peter Suber, author of Open Access (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2012).
- Advised other schools who are interested in adopting such a policy. In particular, it made an online presentation to the faculty and Librarians of Hamilton College on this issue.

We believe that through our policy we are achieving greater exposure for our scholarly work than what would have been possible without the policy. We plan to continue the support of our faculty who may want to submit their articles and may not be sure how to do it, or do not have the time to look into the issue. In particular, through the "Celebration of Faculty Scholarship" booklet that the College produces every year we have identified that from 96 articles listed in 2015, only 13 have been placed in the repository. We plan to contact the faculty members and offer them help to submit their articles to the repository.

We encountered no objections from any publisher to our policy. In fact, there was only one case of a publisher requesting a waiver which the faculty decided to offer. We should mention that the adoption of OA Policies by schools keeps increasing and publishers are accepting them.

The system that we use to manage our repository has added some functionality that provides statistics and interactive visualizations informing the faculty about the geographic locations, countries and the institutions of those downloading their papers. Below is a snapshot of such a visualization.

Available Data: 12/16/2014 to 11/02/2015

If you want to create your own account so that you can monitor your articles' downloading activity please contact one of the members of the SCG.

Overall the application of the Open Access Policy is considered very successful, and we hope that more faculty members will take advantage of it. If you want to take advantage of the OA Policy and submit your work to the repository, please email the final author's version of your article (not the publisher's version) to repository@wellesley.edu