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Endorsed by the Rod Library Faculty, February 11, 2014

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[For a fuller consideration of the issues addressed herein, see: “Copyrights and the Paradox of Scholarly Publishing” by R. Michael Tanner, Provost, University of Illinois at Chicago, available at: http://lib.uiowa.edu/collections/documents/TannerAuthorsRights.pdf]

Publication is the lifeblood of a research university. It is incumbent upon faculty, campus administrator and librarians to ensure the free flow of scholarly information in fulfillment of our campus missions to advance the public good through research and education. Toward this end, our campuses are committed to supporting a sustainable publication process and a healthy publishing industry. The “information revolution” has greatly expanded the means for disseminating and utilizing scholarly discourse, but his opportunity for extending the reach and impact our campuses is countered by social and economic conventions of some sectors of the publishing industry. Suitable publishing partners for academic enterprises should be encouraging the widest possible dissemination of the academy’s work, and the management of copyright should be directed to encouraging scholarly output rather than unnecessarily fettering its access and use. Without some important changes in publishing practices, authors and readers will continue to be frustrated by barriers to the free flow of information that is an essential characteristic of great research universities.

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Protecting intellectual property rights is a particularly important consideration, as many authors unwittingly sign away all control over their creative output. Toward this end, the CIC encourages contract language that ensures that academic authors retain certain rights that facilitate archiving, instructional use, and sharing with colleagues to advance discourse and discovery. Accompanying this document is a model CIC publishing addendum that affirms the rights of authors to share their work in a variety of circumstances, including posting versions of the work in institutional or disciplinary repositories. While the particular circumstances and term governing publication will vary on a case-by-case basis, the underlying principle of encouraging access to the creative output of our campuses should inhere in all of our efforts.

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