

Adopted: March 12, 2019

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
Of  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
San Luis Obispo, CA**

**AS-871-19**

**RESOLUTION ON SUPPORTING LIBRARY COLLECTIONS NECESSARY FOR  
FACULTY AND STUDENT SUCCESS**

**Impact on Existing Policy: NONE<sup>i</sup>**

- 1 WHEREAS, A primary obligation of the Robert E. Kennedy Library is to provide  
2 access to scholarly content essential to student and faculty  
3 success in all Colleges, supporting excellence in teaching, learning and  
4 research at Cal Poly; and  
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- 6 WHEREAS, Faculty at Cal Poly are directly impacted by the funding necessary to  
7 support resources essential to success in the teacher-scholar  
8 model, and should be apprised of improvements or detriments to  
9 collections funding; and  
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- 11 WHEREAS, The Chancellor's Office has provided a set of essential resources for all  
12 CSU campuses through centralized funding of the Electronic Core  
13 Collection (ECC); and  
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- 15 WHEREAS, The ECC has not received a funding increase since 2008, resulting in  
16 further and deeper cuts to the ECC due to inflation; and  
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- 18 WHEREAS, Such cuts force individual campuses to either terminate access to  
19 resources or pay for them locally, often at a higher price; and  
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- 21 WHEREAS, In January 2019, the Academic Senate of the California State  
22 University, unanimously passed resolution (AS-3351-18/FGA/AA  
23 (Rev)), calling on the Chancellor's Office to increase funding for the  
24 ECC to address rising costs and continue to reap the advantages  
25 of collective purchasing power; therefore be it  
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- 27 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly affirm its support of the  
28 resolution passed by the Academic Senate of the California  
29 State University, calling on the Chancellor's Office to increase  
30 funding for the ECC; and be it further

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RESOLVED: That the Dean of Library Services\* be invited to address the Academic Senate annually to provide a report on the state of collections expenditures at both the centralized and local levels.

\*As the title sometimes shifts over time through reorganizations (e.g., University Librarian), the current title used here is meant to indicate the top leadership position within Kennedy Library at any time, regardless of the specific title.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Faculty Affairs Committee  
Date: February 26, 2019

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**<sup>i</sup> (1) Describe how this resolution impacts existing policy on educational matters that affect the faculty. Examples include curricula, academic personnel policies, and academic standards.  
(2) Indicate if this resolution supersedes or rescinds current resolutions.  
(3) If there is no impact on existing policy, please indicate NONE.**

## Background

### RESOLUTION ON SUPPORTING LIBRARY COLLECTIONS NECESSARY FOR FACULTY AND STUDENT SUCCESS [AS-\_\_\_-19]

A primary obligation of Kennedy Library is to provide access to the online scholarly content essential for student and faculty success, supporting excellence in teaching, learning and research at Cal Poly. Base funding for these vital resources comes chiefly from two sources: the Chancellor's Office and Cal Poly.

The Chancellor's Office has provided system-wide funding since 1999 for a core collection of electronic resources available to all 23 campuses, called the Electronic Core Collection (ECC). The Chancellor's Office has not increased the base amount of \$5 million for the ECC since 2008. Inflation has continually eroded the purchasing power of that static base funding, resulting in the loss of resources. When a database *is* excised from the ECC, any campus wishing to maintain access must pay for it, typically at a much higher price. For example, when LexisNexis was cut from the ECC three years ago, the Robert E. Kennedy Library diverted other funds to maintain access to accommodate campus demand. In the three years since, Cal Poly's access to this resource has risen from about \$30,000 annually to nearly \$40,000. To address such erosion of resources and shifting of costs due to inflation, the Academic Senate of the California State University in January 2019 unanimously passed resolution (AS-3351-18/FGA/AA (Rev))<sup>1</sup>, calling on the Chancellor's Office to increase funding for the ECC.

The Robert E. Kennedy Library also provides access to a breadth of databases and journals *never* supported by the ECC, and purchasing power for these resources is equally subject to erosion through inflation.<sup>2</sup> The 2012 Cal Poly *Educational Effectiveness Review* (EER) generated for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) noted a disparity of funding for Kennedy Library as compared with identified peer institutions (ranking 15 out of 16 for expenditures per FTE) and even within the CSU (ranking 9th lowest).<sup>3</sup> The report listed as a specific action item the channeling of new funds towards the Robert E. Kennedy Library specifically for collections.<sup>4</sup>

An increase in Chancellor's Office funding for the ECC will offset losses of resources due to inflation for the system as a whole, reap the full advantage of collective purchasing power, and stem the shifting of costs to individual campuses if an excised resource is retained. An annual report to the Academic Senate by the Dean of Library Services will ensure that any improvement or detriment to the support for these vital resources at both the local and consortial levels will gain the continued visibility they merit in light of their importance to student and faculty success.

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<sup>1</sup> The Academic Senate of the California State University. *Increased Funding for the Electronic Core Collection (ECC)*

<http://calstate.edu/AcadSen/records/resolutions/2018-2019/Documents/3351.shtml>

<sup>2</sup> Examples: a campus subscription to the premier science journal, *Nature*, has risen 19% since 2015, costing Cal Poly campus \$48,000 over four years; two titles from the American Association for the Advancement of Science have risen 38% in four years, costing Cal Poly \$57,000 over that interval.

<sup>3</sup> *WASC Educational Effectiveness Review Report. Appendix 4.1.* (2012). <https://wasc.calpoly.edu/eer>

<sup>4</sup> *WASC Educational Effectiveness Review Report Executive Summary.* 2012. Action item # 7 under heading, Our Polytechnic Identity; *WASC Educational Effectiveness Review Report (Full Report).* (2012). Page 43. <https://wasc.calpoly.edu/eer>

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
OF  
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-3351-18/FGA/AA (Rev)  
November 8-9, 2018

**Increased Funding for the Electronic Core Collection (ECC)**

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU recognize that the CSU Council of Library Directors (COLD) is faced with major cuts to the Electronic Core Collection (ECC) due to inflation and lack of funding increases, thereby damaging teaching, learning, research, and creative activities by faculty and students in the CSU; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) urge the Chancellor to increase the funding for the Electronic Core Collection (ECC), in order to address increasing costs and continue to reap the advantages of collective purchasing power; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor, CSU campus Presidents, CSU campus Senate Chairs, CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs, Council of Library Directors (COLD), CSU ERFSA, and the California State Student Association (CSSA).

***RATIONALE:*** *The ECC started in 1999 and in 2008, the Academic Senate of the California State University endorsed the Virtual Library AS-2854-08/AA of which the Electronic Core Collection (ECC) collection is part for CSU students and faculty. Since 2008, the budget has stagnated at \$5 million with no augmentations in ten years. As a result, due to increasing costs of information resources and inflation, the purchasing power of the ECC has diminished and information sources cut to keep within the budget.*

*The ECC allows all CSU students access to materials no matter the size and budget of their campus, which in turn leads to their success. Further, the value of this collection helps campuses meet accreditation standards of WASC in information literacy and critical thinking. Notably, fiscally this is the most efficient way to maintain library collections because this combined purchasing power saves the CSU an estimated \$15 million, annually.*

*The ECC currently includes 52 online collections and databases (list attached). During the 2017-18 academic year, there were 17,774,233 full-text downloads from the CSU Libraries online resources by CSU students and faculty.*

***Resources in the Electronic Core Collection***

- *ABI Inform (ProQuest)*
- *Academic Search Premier (EBSCO)*
- *Academic Complete eBooks (ProQuest)*

**Background**

- *American Chemical Society Journal Archives*
- *American Council of Learned Societies*
- *America History and Life (EBSCO)*
- *Biological Abstracts (Thomson)*
- *CINAHL (EBSCO)*
- *Communication and Mass Media Complete (EBSCO)*
- *CQ Researcher*
- *Digital Dissertations Package A (ProQuest)*
- *Ethnic NewsWatch*
- *GenderWatch*
- *Global Newsstream (ProQuest)*
- *Grove's Music*
- *JSTOR Arts and Sciences (12 collections)*
- *Life Sciences Collection (JSTOR)*
- *MathSciNet*
- *Mergent Online*
- *Modern Language Association (EBSCO and ProQuest)*
- *NetLibrary (EBSCO)*
- *Oxford English Dictionary*
- *Project Muse Standard Collection*
- *PsycARTICLES (EBSCO and ProQuest)*
- *PsycINFO (EBSCO and ProQuest)*
- *Safari Tech Books (ProQuest)*
- *Sociological Abstracts (ProQuest)*
- *SpringerLink Online Historical Backfiles*
- *SCOAP3*
- *Westlaw: Campus Research – News and Life*
- *Wiley Interscience Backfile*
- *Wiley-Blackwell Backfile*

**Approved Unanimously – January 17-18, 2019**

**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**University Senate**

**Sense of the Senate Resolution on CSU Electronic Core Collection Funding**

08-18/19-EX – February 12, 2019

**RESOLVED:** That the University Senate of Humboldt State University strongly supports centralized funding of an Electronic Core Collection (ECC) of library information resources for all CSU campuses, and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the University Senate recognizes that centralized funding benefits every CSU campus but has become particularly valuable for smaller campuses with smaller library budgets because the ECC provides direct access to general and disciplinary resources that would be difficult to fund and sustain locally; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the University Senate recognizes that centralized acquisitions of electronic resources allows the CSU system to leverage its purchasing power to negotiate costs that may be unachievable at the individual campus; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the University Senate strongly supports increasing base ECC funding: 1) to address resource cost inflation and prevent a reduction in the number of ECC resources currently being offered, and 2) to allow expansion of the ECC so that all CSU students and faculty, regardless of campus affiliation, have access to a strong core of disciplinary and general resources to meet their scholarly needs; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the resolution be shared with the Chancellor; the Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Technology Services; the CSU Academic Affairs Council; The CSU Council of Library Directors (COLD); the HSU Sponsored Programs Foundation Board of Directors; and the committees charged with oversight and management of the ECC (SDLC and EAR).

**RATIONALE:**

*A resolution in support of increased ECC funding passed the CSU Academic Senate unanimously on January 17-18 (AS-3351-18/FGA/AA (Rev)). As noted in that resolution:*

*The ECC started in 1999 and in 2008, the Academic Senate of the California State University endorsed the Virtual Library AS-2854-08/AA of which the Electronic Core Collection (ECC) collection is part for CSU students and faculty. Since 2008, the budget has stagnated at \$5 million with no augmentations in ten years. As a result, due to increasing costs of information resources and inflation, the purchasing power of the ECC has diminished and information sources cut to keep within the budget.*

*This resolution affirms the need for increased funding and brings attention to the special importance of central funding and support for the CSU libraries with smaller library budgets.*

*Centralized management of the ECC and its funds makes it possible to leverage the CSU's purchasing power to achieve economies of scale in the acquisition of resources, ensuring that campuses are supported in the most cost-effective way. A sizable augmentation of the ECC budget (as recommended in the ASCSU resolution) will allow a significant expansion of the resources available to all campuses.*

*The ECC is currently composed of the following resources:*

*Resources in the Electronic Core Collection*

*ABI Inform (ProQuest)*

*Academic Search Premier (EBSCO)*

*Academic Complete eBooks (ProQuest)*

*American Chemical Society Journal Archives*

*American Council of Learned Societies*

*America History and Life (EBSCO)*

*Biological Abstracts (Thomson)*

*CINAHL (EBSCO)*

*Communication and Mass Media Complete (EBSCO)*

*CQ Researcher*

*Digital Dissertations Package A (ProQuest)*

*Ethnic NewsWatch*

*GenderWatch*

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*Grove's Music*

*JSTOR Arts and Sciences (12 collections)*

*Life Sciences Collection (JSTOR)*

*MathSciNet*

*Mergent Online*

*Modern Language Association (EBSCO and ProQuest)*

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*Project Muse Standard Collection*

*PsycARTICLES (EBSCO and ProQuest)*

*PsycINFO (EBSCO and ProQuest)*

*Safari Tech Books (ProQuest)*

*Sociological Abstracts (ProQuest)*

*SpringerLink Online Historical Backfiles*

*SCOAP3*

*Westlaw: Campus Research – News and Life*

*Wiley Interscience Backfile*

*Wiley-Blackwell Backfile*