Senate Bill 424: Science Direct Continuation for 2019 at UAH Library

Whereas: The UAH Library budget has had, in the faculty view, only minor budget increases over the past decade, and the Library is now in a fiscal position that they are considering discontinuing the Science Direct broad journal capability and only having select journals available for immediate internet access; and

Whereas: This is being contemplated because of a $11.5K increase in the cost of Science Direct broad access for the 2019 calendar year; and

Whereas: If Science Direct was dropped for 2019, many journals currently available immediately to the university community via Science Direct would instead only be available through Inter Library Loan; and

Whereas: The UAH Senate believes that dropping Science Direct would negatively impact the research capability of the UAH scholarly research community, especially junior faculty; and

Whereas: The UAH Faculty Senate believes that the dropping of the broad coverage Science Direct Journal Access would in fact be fundamentally disruptive to UAH; and

Whereas: Currently, UAH has, at least, three Vice-President vacancies, which are being filled by interim appointments, and there are several other senior staff positions which are currently not filled or about to be vacant, with, according to the understanding of the Faculty Senate President, that least some salaries from vacant positions are being collected in a “central fund” that requires Board of Trustees action to release,

Be it therefore resolved by the UAH Faculty Senate that:

The President of UAH cover the increased costs of Science Direct from the President’s contingency funds.

And be it further resolved that:

Following coverage of those costs that the UAH President request to the Board of Trustees to release a commensurate part of the “central fund” monies back to the President’s contingency fund.

And be it further resolved that:

The UAH President work on a permanent solution to the UAH Library maintain broad journal Science Direct access for UAH Faculty and Staff. Moreover, if the Presidents contingency fund is unavailable and/or the Board of Trustees refuses to grant access to the “central fund” the UAH President should include in the considerations for permanent solution the possibility of reducing the varsity athletic sports budget by at least $11.5K with redirection of those funds to the UAH Library.

And be it further resolved that:

The UAH President contact the Alabama Congressional Delegation to request that the U.S. Congress investigate the monopoly or near-monopoly of scientific journals that Elsevier has assembled, and the monopolistic/oligopolistic price increases that Elsevier is engaging in.

And be it further resolved that:

The UAH President formally request the University of Alabama System Chancellor to contact the Alabama Congressional Delegation to request that the U.S. Congress investigate the monopoly of scientific journals that Elsevier has assembled, and the monopolistic price increases that Elsevier is engaging in.

And be it finally resolved that:

The UAH Faculty Senate President, in said person’s role as Faculty Representative to the System Board, is to seek opportunities to alert Board members of the impact on UAH Faculty if there was loss of Science Direct.