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June 20, 2013

The Honorable Roderick D. Wright, Chair
Senate Governmental Organization Committee
1020 N Street, Room 584
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 609 (Nestande), as amended June 18, 2013
Scheduled for hearing in Senate Governmental Organization Committee on June 25, 2013
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wright:

The University of California (UC) is pleased to support AB 609 (Nestande), which would enact the California Taxpayer Access to Publicly Funded Research Act. AB 609 would establish public access publication requirements for UC faculty and other researchers who receive state agency-funded research grants. Under AB 609, a grantee would be required to submit an electronic version of any peer-reviewed manuscript generated from the research grant to the state agency or an approved publicly accessible database no later than 12 months after the work is published.

Scholars at the University of California have a vested interest in ensuring that their work reaches the widest possible audience, including members of the public whose tax dollars support the University's research. Unfortunately the increasing cost of journal subscriptions in recent years often acts to restrict access to research results. This increasing restriction on the dissemination of research results runs counter to the spirit in which UC faculty, researchers and students undertake their scholarly activity. Accordingly UC is supportive of efforts, such as AB 609, to make research as widely accessible as possible. We commend Assembly Member Nestande for his leadership on this important issue.

As always, the University appreciates your consideration of our views. Should you have any questions about the University's support position on AB 609, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-9924.

Sincerely,

Nadia Leal-Carrillo
Legislative Director

cc: Assembly Member Brian Nestande
Vice Chair and Members, Senate Governmental Organization Committee
President Mark G. Yudof
Provost Aimée Dorr
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez