The sub-committee met on March 17th (2014) to discuss and consider issues related to the academic, legal, ethical, and fiscal ramifications of an open access policy as it pertains to or could potentially pertain to “the question of how to preserve the academic freedom of scholars to publish as they wish while still providing public access to research.” After discussion and consideration, the sub-committee agreed with a general opinion regarding issues of academic freedom as summarized below:

The infringement of academic freedom associated with any mandate that restricts or limits authors’ ability to choose where, in what form (e.g., article, chapter, or book), or through which medium (e.g., print, electronic, or any combination of the two) a work is disseminated is self-evident. Similarly, any state or institutional encouragement toward a particular dissemination outlet, form, or medium may also create, or has the potential to create, equally detrimental infringements on academic freedom.

When the potential consequences created by any State open access policy are considered fully, it is clear that academic freedom will be preserved by permitting individual authors the choice to opt-in or opt-out of the policy and any associated procedures required to electronically disseminate their works on a case-by-case or work-by-work basis.