**Illinois State**

**University**

**Board of**

**Trustees**

**Report No. 2014.10/4000.05**

**Open Access**

**Executive Summary**

Public Act 098-0295, also known as the Illinois Open Access to Research Articles Act (hereinafter the “Act”), was passed by the Illinois General Assembly on August 9, 2013. The purpose of the Act is to “maximize the social and economic benefits of research to the public” by making “published research articles produced by faculty at public universities” as widely available as possible.

The Act requires each public university in Illinois to appoint a task force to review current publishing practices by its faculty members and draft a policy regarding open access to research articles based on criteria appropriate to the institution. On or before January 1, 2015, each task force is required to adopt a report of its findings and recommendations and to submit its report to the governing body of its institution, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly, and the Governor. In drafting its policy each task force is asked to consider 1) how the institution can best further the open access goals set forth in the Act, 2) review how peer institutions and the federal government have addressed open access and ensure consistency of the recommended approach with steps taken by federal grant-making agencies, and 3) academic, legal, ethical, and fiscal ramifications of open access publishing.

In November 2013, Board of Trustees Chairperson Michael McCuskey appointed the Illinois State University Open Access Task Force. Chairperson McCuskey charged the task force with conducting the review of publishing practices by Illinois State faculty, drafting a policy appropriate to the University, and reporting its findings by the January 1, 2015 deadline established in the Act. Work of the task force has involved numerous consultations with faculty. The task force conducted three open forum sessions to solicit input and surveyed the university community to obtain feedback regarding elements of the charge. The task force then conducted two open forums to discuss a draft open access policy and consulted the Academic Senate Faculty Caucus. More information about the task force and its work is available at http://provost.illinoisstate.edu/faculty/openaccess.shtml.

The Illinois State University Open Access Task Force seeks feedback from the Board of Trustees regarding the draft task force report. Comments from the Board will be incorporated into the report prior to its submission to the Illinois General Assembly, IBHE, and Governor.