

BU to Create Free Archive of Faculty Research

University Council approves open access plan



WENDY MARINER
(top) and Barbara
Millen (bottom)
have pushed for
an open access
system.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY TOOK a big step toward greater access to academic scholarship and research on February 11, when the University Council voted to support an open access system that would make scholarly work of the faculty and staff available online to anyone, for free, as long as the authors are credited and the scholarship is not used for profit.

"We believe this is the first time that a university as a whole has taken a stand on behalf of the university, as opposed to a single school or college," says Wendy Mariner, the chair of the Faculty Council and a professor at the School of Law, at the School of Public Health, and at the School of Medicine. "We are looking forward to new forms of publication in the twenty-first century that will transform the ways that knowledge and information are shared."

"The resolution passed by our University Council is a very important statement on the importance of open access to the results of scholarship and research created within the University," says BU President Robert A. Brown.

The council vote has approved an initiative to establish an archive of the research and scholarship produced by the faculty of the

University. Mariner says that one goal is to make it easier for faculty to be able to share their own research with students and colleagues.

The increased ownership and control is good news for researchers such as Barbara Millen, a MED professor and cochair of the University Council committee that recommended the open access initiative. Working on a book about nutrition research at one point in her career, Millen found herself in the paradoxical position of having to seek permission to use her own data after it was published in a journal that retained the copyright to her work.

Traditionally, academic journal publishers have used subscriptions to cover the costs of printing, marketing, and distribution. Many also charge a per-page fee to researchers whose work they publish, which can add up to thousands of dollars. The journals control access to the published papers, because they often hold exclusive copyright. Thanks to the Internet, printing presses and expensive distribution networks are no longer needed, but there are still costs for editing, marketing, and other logistics, even for online journals, and open-access journals typically charge scholars a flat processing fee to cover these costs.

"This vote sends a very strong message of support for open and free exchange of scholarly work," says Robert Hudson, director of Mugar Memorial Library and cochair of the University Council committee on scholarly activities and libraries. "Open access means that the results of research and scholarship can be made open and freely accessible to anyone."

ART JAHNKE AND JESSICA ULLIAN

Associate Provost for Graduate Medical Sciences Named

Linda Hyman to join MED on July 1

Biologist Linda Hyman, vice provost of Montana State University's division of health sciences, has been appointed associate provost for the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences at the School of Medicine.

Hyman's responsibilities, which begin on July 1, will include oversight of curricula and execution of all graduate programs, including recruitment, admissions, ongoing program activities, new program development, student outcomes, and graduate alumni relations.

Hyman replaces Carl Franzblau, current associate dean, professor, and chair of the MED department of biochemistry. Franzblau is the founder of CityLab, an educational outreach program that teaches middle and high school students about the biotechnology industry, and CityLab Academy, a nine-month biotechnology and biomedical science training program for high school graduates.

"Dr. Franzblau is going to be a tough act to follow," Hyman says. "He has a real entrepreneurial spirit, and I have some trepidation about filling his shoes."

For the past five years, Hyman has also

held the position of assistant dean at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, where she is the Montana director of the cooperative program of the University of Washington School of Medicine and the states of Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (WWAMI) medical program.

Previously, she held faculty positions at Tulane University Medical School and was program director at the National Science Foundation and a principal investigator on several national grants.

Hyman earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the State University of New York at Albany and master's and doctorate degrees in biology from Brandeis University. VW

