Background

The University of North Dakota (UND) launched its online institutional repository, known as the UND Scholarly Commons (hereinafter called the Commons) in September 2017. It is managed by the Chester Fritz Library (CFL) and located at https://commons.und.edu. The Library, while encouraging the UND community to deposit a wide variety of materials in the Commons, conducted extensive outreach and education on institutional repositories (such as the Commons), copyright, Open Access, the Open Access policies of major granting agencies, and related topics. The results indicate substantial success: as of August 20, 2018, the Commons contains 12,698 items, including everything from research papers, poster presentations, art inventory items, historical photos, research data sets, and much more, in all formats, including images, audio, video, text, data, etc. These items have been downloaded a total of 9,536 times by users worldwide. However, UND has never had any official statement, resolution, or policy regarding Open Access.

An Open Access Statement of Support aligns with OneUND, our Strategic Plan, under the Core Values of:

Community – A spirit of collaboration and connectedness across the University and beyond

Discovery – An enthusiasm for inquiry, creativity, and innovation

Liberal Arts – An educational foundation essential for living an intellectually curious, personally fulfilling, and socially responsible life

Lifelong Learning – A passion for learning, civic engagement, and community leadership

It would also support Diversity and Inclusivity by making our research available to all, regardless of ability to pay or location.

An Open Access Statement of Support would also align with OneUND under our Goals of Learning, Discovery, and Engagement. Our explicitly stated goal of enhancing discovery at a level consistent with the most research-intensive universities (Carnegie R1) is particularly facilitated by encouraging faculty to deposit their materials and share them openly and globally.

Most faculty works of authorship are subject to the intellectual property policies of UND and the State Board of Higher Education, which vest ownership of copyright in the author but reserve to UND certain, limited use rights. The Commons, and the voluntary deposit process, will help ensure a meaningful and appropriate way for UND to exercise those rights while permitting authors to highlight or earmark certain works for inclusion.

At present, we recommend offering a Statement of Support and a formally supported “opt in” policy, in the form of an Open Access Resolution, to be presented to the University Senate and all other appropriate bodies. This is a vital first step in the promotion of Open Access in routine operations – a goal adopted and supported by most Carnegie R1 institutions, and clearly supported by major federal (and many state) granting agencies.

Statement of Support:
The University of North Dakota (UND) is committed to disseminating the fruits of its research and scholarship as widely as possible. In keeping with that commitment, the University adopts the following policy:

The Libraries of UND will make available the scholarly research (including articles, data sets, supporting material, and related materials) of the UND community, including faculty, non-faculty researchers, staff, and others, and high-level student research (theses, dissertations, posters presented at professional conferences, etc.). Faculty and other community members will be encouraged to deposit such works with the Libraries, for uploading, metadata tagging, and permanent preservation in the Commons. Faculty and other community members who deposit materials not already subject to the intellectual property policies of UND and the State Board of Higher Education will in concert with the Commons deposit grant to UND a nonexclusive, noncommercial, irrevocable, worldwide license to use, reproduce, and distribute these materials or portions thereof, in any medium, solely for the purpose of maintaining and operating the Commons. The policy applies to all scholarly articles and research materials authored or co-authored while the person is a member of the UND faculty, staff, or student body except for any articles or other materials completed before the adoption of this policy and any articles or other materials for which the Faculty member or other UND community member entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement. The Dean of Libraries or the Provost will waive application of the license for a particular article or delay access for a specified period of time upon express direction by the author/co-author.

Each author/co-author will be strongly encouraged to provide, at no charge, an electronic copy of the author’s/co-author’s final version of each article/item no later than 30 days after the date of its publication to the Libraries in an appropriate format. UND may make the article available in its Open Access repository (currently the Commons). The Office of the Provost and/or the Libraries will be responsible for interpreting this policy, resolving disputes concerning its application, and recommending changes to the University Senate from time to time. This policy will be reviewed after 3 years and a report presented to the University Senate.
*This Statement of Support has been partially adapted from Boston University Open Access Policy 2017

i Nothing in this policy is intended to supersede, modify, limit, or curtail the rights or expectations of any party pursuant to SBHE Policy 611.2 or UND’s Intellectual Property Policy.