Provost Wylie and the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) request that the Open Access Task Force determine how the University can best address “open access” issues at the University of Maryland.

During the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 academic years, the University Library Council (ULC) conducted an extensive review of open access issues to determine whether a campus policy should be formulated. The ULC concluded that the issue is complicated and evolving but the University must formally address how best to address and advise all campus constituencies on open access. We ask that you review the issues related to open access and determine how the University should proceed in this arena. Specifically, we would like you to do the following:

1. Review and evaluate the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, which can be found at: http://oa.mp.de/lang/en-uk/berlin-prozess/berliner-erklarung/.

2. Review how our peer institutions are handling issues related to open access.

3. Consider whether the major tenets in the Berlin Declaration align with the University’s mission or whether and how they should be modified to meet our specific and diverse needs.
4. Given that the University wants to make scholarly output readily available and that there is variation amongst campus-wide and college/discipline-specific policies, recommend whether policy changes are appropriate.

5. Consult with the Office of Legal Affairs to review any policy recommendations.

We ask that you submit your report and recommendations to the Senate Office no later than December 14, 2012. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Reka Montfort in the Senate Office, extension 5-5804.