Appendix 3. Review of journals used for COAS publications.

The Task Force analyzed subscription costs for journals most often used by faculty from three OSU units (Chemistry, COAS, and Human Development and Family Sciences). For the period from 1994-2003 COAS faculty published most frequently in 42 journals. These included 20 commercial publishers, 20 professional journals, and *Science* and *Nature* that were put in a separate category. The resulting data base was used for a cost comparison for print subscriptions and evaluation of differences in impact factor. Costs for electronic subscriptions are even more convoluted (time period covered by electronic versions, permanent archiving, bundling of less important journals, etc.). Neither electronic subscriptions nor author costs (page charges and reprint costs) are covered here.

The collective cost to the library for these journals in 2004 was $73,812. Commercial journals cost on average $0.98 per page. Professional journals cost on average $0.39 per page. Publication costs are similar for these journals so the difference in price per page reflects the larger net profit that commercial publishers are collecting for their products. *Science* and *Nature* cost only $0.15 per page, but these two journals bring in a substantial amount of their revenue from advertisement.

*Science* and *Nature* are popular publishing venues due to their extremely high impact factors (mean = 30.38). *Science* is published by AAAS (a professional society) and *Nature* is published by the Nature Publishing Group (a commercial publisher). COAS authors published 33 papers in these two journals between 1994-2003. This represents 4% of the articles included in the data base.

The average impact factor for the other commercial journals was 1.796. The average impact factor for the professional society journals was 2.580. This indicates that the professional journals not only cost less per page (for library subscriptions) but also represent a significantly higher quality of scientific publication. COAS authors published 484 articles in professional society journals between 1994-2003. This represents 62% of the articles included in the data base.

The Task Force encourages faculty to publish in professional rather than commercial journals when they have a choice. We also encourage faculty to review for professional and to decline to review papers for commercial journals. Continued support of the professional society journals will help promote the sustainable pricing of scholarly publications for academic institutions.