

## Re: Thesis Removal

Milton O'Neal Walsh Jr <mowalsh@uno.edu>

Mon 2/6/2023 10:10 AM

To: Brittney E Barras <bbarras1@uno.edu>; Nancy Biggio <nbiggio@uno.edu>

Hi,

Thanks to you both for this. I have a meeting with our student Slater this semester in which I will re-inforce this. Will also send out an email to all students and faculty.

Cheers!

Neal

### **M.O. Walsh (he/him)**

*Director, The Creative Writing Workshop*

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**From:** Brittney E Barras <bbarras1@uno.edu>

**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 10:06 AM

**To:** Milton O'Neal Walsh Jr <mowalsh@uno.edu>; Nancy Biggio <nbiggio@uno.edu>

**Subject:** Thesis Removal

Neal,

Nancy and I discussed this, and we will place an embargo on Jacklyn's thesis for 40 years. However, note that Jacklyn's request and documentation would not typically warrant an indefinite embargo or redaction.

Students should be made aware that their work will be publicly accessible at some point after submitting the thesis to the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation repository unless they have a warranted extenuating circumstance (e.g. a publishing contract that requires us to remove it). Knowing this might alter students' decision making when choosing a thesis topic (especially non-fiction creative writers).

It is important that faculty understand and communicate to students the gravity of publishing a manuscript to an academic repository and its potential availability to the public. The miscommunication I mentioned previously is that students are being told they can have their work permanently removed from the repository; this is not the university's practice, and the option is reserved for the most extreme circumstances.

It should be noted that Jacklyn's case was a catalyst for the Graduate School to conduct research on thesis/repository practices at similar institutions. The following was decided as a best practice and is

included in the Graduate Student Handbook and Thesis/Dissertation Manual:

The University affirms the long-standing tradition that theses and dissertations, which represent significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge and the scholarly record, should be shared with scholars in all disciplines and the public. To this end, the Graduate School requires theses or dissertations prepared at the University to be

- (1) deposited into an electronic thesis and dissertation repository (ScholarWorks), and
  - (2) freely and openly available to the public, subject to requested access restrictions obtained by the student.
- These practices do not affect students' copyright ownership rights of their theses or dissertations.

Of course, the expectation above extends to all students, regardless of discipline, who compose a thesis or dissertation.

Please let us know if this is unclear and if you would like the Graduate School to further communicate with your faculty.

Thanks,

**Brittney Barras, M.A.**

*Assistant Director for Student Services  
Graduate School*



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**From:** Milton O'Neal Walsh Jr <mowalsh@uno.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 10:00 AM  
**To:** Brittney E Barras <bbarras1@uno.edu>  
**Cc:** Nancy Biggio <nbiggio@uno.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Thesis Removal

Hi Brittney,

Thanks. Yes, I would love to have this thesis removed or permanently embargoed as this issue with Jackie will not go away and is a legitimate concern for her. What uncertainty among faculty are you referring to? I've not spoken to the CWW faculty as a whole about this, but would be happy to. Would you like me to get them to vote on something like this as an option?

Jackie's case is special and particular. I would not foresee a permanent embargo as something that would happen frequently but would be nice to have the option, I think.

Thanks!

Neal

**M.O. Walsh (he/him)**

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**From:** Brittney E Barras <bbarras1@uno.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 9:54 AM  
**To:** Milton O'Neal Walsh Jr <mowalsh@uno.edu>  
**Cc:** Nancy Biggio <nbiggio@uno.edu>  
**Subject:** Fw: Thesis Removal

Hi Neal,

Please see below for additional correspondence from Jacklyn Hopper regarding her thesis. I have extended the embargo for another year; however, there seems to be uncertainty among the CWW faculty regarding removal of theses/indefinite embargoes.

Thoughts?

**Brittney Barras, M.A.**

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**From:** Jacklyn J Hopper <jhopper2@my.uno.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 3:02 PM  
**To:** Brittney E Barras <bbarras1@uno.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Thesis Removal

I really need it removed completely. This is increasing my anxiety. I was not told ahead of time it was going to be available to the world to see through Google. Had I known, I would've written something completely different. Furthermore, I wrote the piece with good intent but as time went on I discovered some things that I wrote believing them to be true are unfortunately not. Richard Goodman told me that you are able to take it down. Please just remove it. It is mine and the fact that I have requested it be removed, something so simple that doesn't hurt you but does in fact hurt me, is so very wrong.

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**From:** Brittney E Barras <bbarras1@uno.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 11:34 AM  
**To:** Jacklyn J Hopper <jhopper2@my.uno.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Thesis Removal

Hi Jacklyn,

I did receive your request and sent it to the AVP, Dr. Biggio. She is inclined to grant another year's embargo at this time, but will also be reaching out to the program coordinator to discuss.

**Brittney Barras, M.A.**  
*Assistant Director for Student Services*  
*Graduate School*



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**From:** Jacklyn J Hopper <jhopper2@my.uno.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 5:49 PM  
**To:** Brittney E Barras <bbarras1@uno.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Thesis Removal

Hello! I submitted another request quite a while ago for thesis removal, and since the expiration of the current embargo is near, I am checking to see if there are any updates. Thank you!

Jacklyn Hopper

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**From:** Brittney E Barras <bbarras1@uno.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 8, 2022 9:22 AM  
**To:** Jacklyn J Hopper <jhopper2@my.uno.edu>  
**Cc:** Nancy Biggio <nbiggio@uno.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Thesis Removal

Hi Jacklyn,

You have the option to submit another extension request prior to the expiration date of your current embargo:

<https://unograduateschool.formstack.com/workflows/redaction>

**Brittney Barras, M.A.**

*Assistant Director for Student Services  
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**From:** ScholarWorks <scholarworks@uno.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 7, 2022 8:29 AM  
**To:** Jacklyn J Hopper <jhopper2@my.uno.edu>  
**Cc:** Brittney E Barras <bbarras1@uno.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Thesis Removal

Hello Jacklyn,

I'm copying this to Brittney Barras, the Assistant Director of the Graduate School, since thesis embargos are under the auspices of the Graduate School.

with best wishes,  
Jeanne Pavy

**Jeanne Pavy, MLS, PhD**

*Scholarly Communication & Collection Development Librarian  
Chair, Resources Management Department*

**Earl K. Long Library**

**University of New Orleans**

office [504-280-6547](tel:504-280-6547)

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**From:** Jacklyn J Hopper <jhopper2@my.uno.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 6, 2022 9:32 AM  
**To:** ScholarWorks <scholarworks@uno.edu>  
**Subject:** Thesis Removal

Hello! I am checking in about the removal of my thesis from ScholarWorks, as it is going to be open to the public in February and, as stated before, this is not something that I want. In my research, I have seen that other universities allow the removal of theses from ScholarWorks and in talking to professors from UNO and lawyers, I have been told that it's entirely possible. However, it was a fight earlier this year for some reason when I had stated that I was not made aware prior to writing my thesis or during the course of writing my thesis that it would be made public and accessible to anyone in the world through Google. I was absolutely never told this. Nor was it made clear in anything I signed. Had I been made aware, I would have never written the thesis I did or included some very private and sensitive information. Moreover, I am looking to get parts of it published in a different form under a different name. It being made available to the public, which I was never made aware of until it was done, right before graduation, is incredibly detrimental. Please remove it. I have asked several times and know this is entirely possible and if it is not removed, I will continue seeking legal counsel. Thank you.

Best,  
Jacklyn Hopper

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