



TO: Academic Deans, Department Heads, School Directors, Associate Deans for Research

FROM: Corinne Guimont, Director of Virginia Tech Publishing *CG*
Rachel Gabriele, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs *RG*

CC: Faculty Subvention Fund Committee

DATE: August 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Review of TOME at VT and Publish Subvention Funds

1. **Purpose.** This memo notifies campus of a pause to TOME at VT and the Faculty Publishing Subvention Fund programs to complete a review of the programs and make recommendations for future structure.
2. **Background.** Virginia Tech recognizes the financial challenges that faculty members face in publishing their scholarly and creative research. With this in mind, for almost 40 years the Provost's Office has partnered with the colleges and University Libraries to offer **Faculty Publishing Subventions** in cases where there is a documented need. This fund, formerly known as the Faculty Book Publishing Subvention Fund, was broadened in 2020 to include creative research as well as scholarly books.

In addition, Virginia Tech was also one of 20 participating universities in the "Towards an Open Monography Ecosystem" or TOME initiative, which was a five-year pilot program from 2018-2023 by the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), and the Association of University Presses (AUPresses) to support the publication of open access, digital monographs. TOME was designed to advance open access monographs for the wide dissemination of long-form, peer-reviewed scholarship by humanities and humanistic social sciences faculty members. That 5-year pilot ended in 2023 and has been continued under the name "**TOME at VT**".

3. **Discussion.** After 40 years of the Faculty Publishing Subventions program, little has changed to the structure and financial support provided, though both the organization of the university and the landscape of academic publishing has greatly evolved. Similarly, after two years of support for TOME at VT after the TOME pilot period, an assessment of the ongoing need and structure of that program, both individually and as it relates to the Faculty Publishing Subvention program, is necessary.
4. **Response.** The Office of the Provost has requested a review of both the Faculty Publishing Subventions and TOME at VT programs to assure that they continue to effectively support the strategic goals of the university and meet the needs of faculty.

For academic year 2025-26, the University Libraries has engaged a group of faculty partners to review these two programs, to compare with resources offered at peer institutions, and to determine alignment with VT's organizational and funding structures. During this review, no subvention or TOME at VT grants will be awarded.

A report on findings and next steps will be finalized before the end of the academic year with a plan to implement any changes in advance of the new fiscal year (July 1, 2026).