A resolution supporting the adoption of Open Educational Resources in courses at Wayne State University.

Presented on 15th November 2018

Sponsor: Bilal Hammoud
Co-Sponsors: Stuart Baum, Dalia Ibrahim, Courtney Mansour, Trina Schulz, Riya Chhabra, Paul Jones III, Marcella Eid, Alexis Brown, and Resma Gadde

WHEREAS, The current cost of course materials is burdensome to students [1]; **AND**

WHEREAS, The cost of course materials has increased exponentially over the past several years [2]; **AND**

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that the high cost of course materials is one of the leading causes of the student achievement gap [3]; **AND**

WHEREAS, Students take on additional debt to purchase their course materials, or forego purchasing course materials entirely, due to the high cost of those materials [4]; **AND**

WHEREAS, 'Open Educational Resources' is defined as teaching, learning and research materials in any medium – digital or otherwise – that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license, and are free to access, use, adapt, repurpose, revise, and redistribute at no cost and with no or limited restrictions [5]; **AND**

WHEREAS, The adoption of Open Educational Resources in courses would significantly reduce the cost for students to enroll and participate in those courses; **AND**

WHEREAS, The adoption of Open Educational Resources will thus support student success by increasing course affordability and breaking down barriers to course participation [6]; **AND**

WHEREAS, Unlike other alternatives, Open Educational Resources better address the shortcomings of the status quo as they are completely free to use, they are available indefinitely, and students are given a true opt-out option; **AND**

WHEREAS, Faculty and students both share a concern about course material affordability and its impact on student success; **AND**

WHEREAS, We recognize that it is the prerogative of faculty to select the course materials that are most appropriate for a class; **AND**

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to seek and consider low- and no-cost options, including Open Educational Resources, as long as there is no reduction in quality; **AND**

WHEREAS, High quality peer-reviewed Open Educational Resources are currently available to be used in courses from a multitude of subjects at various levels of study; **AND**

WHEREAS, Open Educational Resources can be integrated into every aspect of a course, incorporating course readings, homework problem sets, and question banks for quizzes and tests; **AND**

WHEREAS, Other institutions of higher education have successfully adopted Open Educational Resources at their institutions to promote student success [7].

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wayne State University Student Senate wholeheartedly supports the adoption of Open Educational Resources in courses at Wayne State University; **AND**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wayne State University Student Senate encourages Wayne State University to offer support to faculty to integrate Open Educational Resources in their courses, when academically appropriate, and to help them develop Open Educational Resources themselves; **AND**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wayne State University Student Senate calls on the Legislature of the State of Michigan to support Open Educational Resources as a solution to high course material costs, by investing in the creation and dissemination of quality Open Educational Resources developed by our state institutions of higher education.

AND FINALLY BE IT ORDERED, that the Wayne State University Student Senate will circulate this resolution to all relevant outlets, including the University President, the University Provost, the members of the Board of Governors, and the President of the Wayne State University Academic Senate.

[1] http://studentpirgs.org/campaigns/sp/make-textbooks-affordable

[2] https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/college-costs/quick-guide-college-costs

[3] https://uspirg.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/NATIONAL%20Fixing%20Broken%20Textbooks%20Report1.pdf

[4] https://studentpirgs.org/sites/student/files/reports/National%20-%20COVERING%20THE%20COST.pdf

[5] https://en.unesco.org/themes/building-knowledge-societies/oer

[6] http://www.isetl.org/ijtlhe/pdf/IJTLHE3386.pdf

[7] https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/12/19/more-faculty-members-are-using-oer-survey-finds

X_____   X_____
Stuart Baum   *Dalia Ibrahim*
President   Vice President