 <p>Capilano Students' Union</p>	Policy No.	Approval Authority
	IS-09	Board of Directors
	Policy Name	Approval Date
	Open Educational Resources Policy	November 22, 2019
	Responsible	Scheduled Review
	Campaigns and Advocacy Committee	<i>October 2022</i>

Summary

The post-secondary system's reliance on traditional physical textbooks as a delivery vehicle for educational material is outdated and has created a barrier to accessing education. In North America, the cost of textbooks has increased at four times the rate of inflation since 2006.¹ Due to the limited number of publishers in the industry, the textbook market does not respond to the same price adjustment mechanisms as in other markets determined by the laws of supply and demand. Students are trapped in this expensive market by professors who are responsible for assigning textbooks, often at the direction of the publishers themselves, and may not be considering price when choosing which course materials are required.

Students can attempt to save money through lower-cost digital versions or through used textbooks sales, but publishers have continued to keep digital prices high and reduced the cost-benefits of second-hand books. Professors are also increasingly using extra publisher materials for courses, requiring students to buy costly access codes that create a "pay-wall" to homework, quizzes and additional course information. These extra publisher materials and the access codes needed to use them are often bundled with the print or digital versions of textbooks, trapping students into having to buy these extra costly required course materials. To make matters worse, students also lose access to these online materials at the end of term when the online code expires, rendering all the materials in the bundle useless and unsellable.

The development of open educational resources (OERs) can help to ease the financial burden that students are otherwise forced to shoulder by providing a wide variety of free or low-cost alternatives. OERs can also help to increase student success outcomes with research showing students in courses with open resources often have better grades and lower failure and withdrawal rates than courses with traditional textbooks.² Professors can use OERs to customize course material and create a tailored course package or textbook rather than relying on the traditional one-size-fits-all approach of regular textbooks.

Definitions

In this policy:


"open educational resources" means educational materials that are available legally for free or at a reduced cost. Such materials may be licensed under an open copyright license and either downloaded as PDF or purchased as low-cost printed versions.

¹ Vitez, Kaitlyn. "OPEN 101: An Action Plan For Affordable Textbooks," 3, The Student Public Interest Research Groups, accessed online:

<https://www.capres.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Open-101-An-Action-Plan-for-Affordable-Textbooks.pdf>.

²Feldstein, A, M Martin, A Hudson, K Warren, J Hilton, and D Wiley. "Open Textbooks and Increased Student Access and Outcomes." *European Journal of Open, Distance and E-Learning 2* (2010): 1–9.

http://www.eurodl.org/materials/contrib/2012/Feldsteint_et_al.pdf.

 <p>Capilano Students' Union</p>	Policy No.	Approval Authority
	IS-09	Board of Directors
	Policy Name	Approval Date
	Open Educational Resources Policy	November 22, 2019
	Responsible	Scheduled Review
	Campaigns and Advocacy Committee	October 2022

Rationale

The Capilano Students' Union has adopted these policy principles because:

- Since 2006, the price of textbooks and materials has risen four times as fast as inflation;³
- Seventy (70) percent of students didn't purchase a textbook because it was too expensive;⁴
- The textbook publishing industry is set up to benefit publishers, not students;
- Traditional physical textbooks and supplementary materials can often be an incredible financial burden to students, with the average student spending over \$750 per year on regular textbooks;⁵
- There are contemporary and current educational materials legally available free-of-charge online at websites such as BCcampus OpenEd Resources;⁶
- BCcampus has concluded that "open educational practices holds great promise in terms of significant cost savings, innovative pedagogy, and improved educational outcomes";⁷
- Instructors can edit and tailor each open educational resource using BCcampus software to meet the specific needs of their class; and
- Instructors generally determine the educational material from which required readings are drawn.

Policy Principles

1. The Capilano Students' Union supports the adoption and integration of open educational resources at Capilano University.


³ Vitez, Kaitlyn, "OPEN 101," 3.

⁴ Redden, Molly. "7 In 10 Students Have Skipped Buying a Textbook Because of Its Cost, Survey Finds," The Chronicle of Higher Education, August 23, 2011, accessed online: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/7-in-10-Students-Have-Skipped/128785/>.

⁵ Brown, Mark. "The Cost of a Canadian University Education in Six Charts," Macleans.ca, May 31, 2018, accessed online: <https://www.macleans.ca/education/the-cost-of-a-canadian-university-education-in-six-charts/>.

⁶ BCcampus, *BCcampus OpenEd Resources*, accessed online: <https://open.bccampus.ca/>.

⁷ Jhangiani, R., S., Pitt, R., Hendricks, C., Key, J., & Lalonde, C., *Exploring faculty use of open educational resources at British Columbia post-secondary institutions*, BCcampus Research Report, BCcampus, 2016, accessed online: https://bccampus.ca/files/2016/01/BCFacultyUseOfOER_final.pdf.

 <p>Capilano Students' Union</p>	Policy No.	Approval Authority
	IS-09	Board of Directors
	Policy Name	Approval Date
	Open Educational Resources Policy	November 22, 2019
	Responsible	Scheduled Review
	Campaigns and Advocacy Committee	<i>October 2022</i>

2. The Capilano Students' Union supports provincial and institutional funding to expand the available open educational resources.
3. The Capilano Students' Union will advocate the university and province to increase the use of Open Educational Resources.