

Tatiana Gilbert
President
Thompson Rivers University Students' Union
Local 15 Canadian Federation of Students

January 5, 2018

Re: Response to Student Budget Consultation Report 2018: OER Course Materials

Dear Tatiana,

I am pleased to see TRUSU take a proactive interest in the promotion of open educational resources (OERs) for its members. Access to quality post-secondary education through the reduction of barriers has always been a foundational imperative for Open Learning. We are pleased to confirm that this tradition continues through our efforts to create and support the development of OERs.

Generally, TRU is currently supporting the development and adoption of OERs, including open textbooks, through offering services such as editing, media development and technical support to authors of open educational resources; and the Zed Credential initiative. Several sessions with representatives from TRUSU, the Faculty of Arts and other faculty across campus, CELT, the TRU Library, instructional designers, and the Open Learning Division have taken place to help determine how best to advance the development and adoption of OERs at TRU. The Open Learning Service Plan 2018/19 includes the following initiative: Promote and enhance open educational practices and flexible learning.

The Zed Credential initiative is a project awarded by BCcampus to three post-secondary institutions, of which TRU is one. Plans are well underway for TRU to offer a slate of at least 10 courses without associated textbook costs for the Certificate in General Studies by Fall 2019. Several faculty members are currently scoping OERs for potential revision and adoption into their TRU courses.

To support continued open educational resource development, including that related to the Zed Credential initiative, application to the Strategic Investment Fund is being made on behalf of the cross-functional stakeholders, including CELT; the University Library; Open Learning; faculties, schools, and divisions across campus; and TRUSU for the years 2018-19. The proposal request supports initiatives that will help 1) inform faculty about the opportunities to become involved with the OER and Zed Cred initiatives through reviewing, revising, creating and adopting open resources in their

teaching practice; and, 2) realize benefits for both faculty and students, among which is cost-savings for students and opportunity to customize sustainable course content for faculty.

The effectiveness and success of OER development and adoption will depend upon the engagement of faculty and sufficient incentive. It will be measured by the number of open educational resource projects supported by faculty and the adoption of same into TRU courses.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about the information offered.

Regards,



Don Poirier
Interim Associate Vice-President, Open Learning