

2019-20 Student Budget Consultation Report - Response

Course Materials

TRU Library, Open Learning, and the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching received a 2018-2019 Strategic Initiative Funds (SIF) Grant to support 5 faculty in developing, adapting, or adopting Open Education Resources (OERs) into their TRU courses. The adjudicating committee received an overwhelming number of high caliber grant applications and the Provost's Office responded by adding additional funds for 2 more projects, bringing the total number of funded projects to 7. Funded projects spanned a wide range of disciplines (Chemistry, University Preparation, Education, Geography, Nursing, Student Development, and Journalism, Communication and New Media) taught at TRU. The \$45,500 investment by TRU will directly off-set course related costs for over 2,200 student, saving TRU students over \$250,000. This grant doesn't simply replace a text based textbook with another free text based textbook. Open textbooks and other open educational resources often include multimedia, simulations, and assessments creating a more pedagogically robust learning tool to enhance student learning – free to the student. Moreover, the Provost's Office has committed funds to support ongoing OER development at TRU for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

TRU Library continues to advocate and encourage campus faculty to place traditional textbooks and other learning resources (journal articles, videos and even rock sample sets) in the Library's Reserves program, which is available to students 7 days a week. Liaison librarians run workshops and assist faculty in embedding pre-cleared copyrighted electronic books and journal articles from TRU Library's collections into their Moodle courses, as a way of replacing or supplementing required or recommended readings. To assist students in using, accessing and supporting different learning styles, the library acquired a number of flatbed scanners that translate text materials into 60 different languages, including an audio output. Scanned materials can be emailed or saved to a USB device, free of charge.

Concurrently, the Library will conduct an environmental scan on Canadian libraries purchasing textbooks to be placed in the library's existing Reserves program.

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