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Open Educational Resources Policy

1.0 Preamble

Open Educational Resources are freely available resources which are pedagogically¹ sound and promote access to education. OERs are a peer reviewed, open source, alternative to traditional textbooks. Traditional textbooks are known to greatly contribute to student debt, while OER textbooks are free to little cost to students. University wide adoption of OERs will reduce the financial burden on students while increasing access to education for students who require accommodations such as enlarged text and audio resources. OER textbooks are a more environmentally sustainable option than traditional textbooks, while also being able to adapt to new research as it is published without having to wait three years for an updated textbook.

2.0 Policy

Whereas Open Educational Resources exist for many classes, supported by the same research and peer review as similar published textbooks; and

Whereas student grades and completion rates often show little to no deviation when open educational resources are used instead of traditional textbooks²; and

Whereas traditional textbooks are updated every three years while Open Educational Resources can be updated immediately; and

Whereas students can spend upwards of 25% of their standard tuition on traditional textbooks; and

Whereas students are often burdened by financial instability; and

Whereas financial strains often force students to seek additional employment, which can negatively affect their time and ability to study for their classes; and

Whereas students may elect not to purchase the required text due to the high costs; and

Whereas Open Educational Resources increase access to education for all students; and

Whereas Open Educational Resources are a more environmentally sustainable option compared to traditional education resources; and

¹ Pedagogy: the method and practice of teaching, especially as an academic subject or theoretical concept.

² Hilton III, John Levi, Donna Gaudet, Phil Clark, Jared Robinson, and David Wiley. "The Adoption of Open Educational Resources by One Community College Math Department." *The International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning* 14, no. 4 (2013). <http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/view/1523>.



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Whereas Open Educational Resources can provide students with disabilities the accommodations they require; and

Whereas teachers are able to modify the structure of the content to suit the needs of the class,

3.0 Resolution

Therefore be it resolved that the KSA supports the adoption and integration of Open Educational Resources into class curriculums.