



NDSA-01-1819

A Resolution in Support of Integrating Open Educational Resources into the North Dakota University System

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of textbooks increased 82% between 2002 and 2012¹, placing a heavy financial burden on students and discouraging them from purchasing required course materials; and,

WHEREAS, students lacking access to affordable textbooks are placed at an academic disadvantage; and,

WHEREAS, the continued implementation of Open Educational Resources (OERs) across the NDUS will help to alleviate the academic challenges that arise when one is unable to afford necessary course materials; and,

WHEREAS, the availability of OERs promotes a university-wide culture of opportunity for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the NDUS is a member of multiple educational consortiums and agreements that provide OER access to its members; and,

WHEREAS, supporting OERs will reduce the marginal cost for students to enroll in higher education, leading to an increase in enrollment, which will help North Dakota raise revenue and address its workforce shortage challenges; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NDSA urges a continued emphasis on the availability and importance of OERs and supports initiatives that will implement OERs throughout the NDUS; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NDSA urges the North Dakota State Legislature to make a significant yet sustainable investment in OERs during the 66th Legislative Assembly; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NDSA encourages the NDUS to work with campuses towards enhancing the shareability and transferability of OERs between institutions to leverage the state's investments efficiently; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NDSA recommends institutions and the NDUS implement OERs available through existing agreements into college and university curriculum to leverage the state's investments efficiently; and,



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NDSA recommends institutions and the NDUS emphasize implementing OERs into classes with large student enrollment and classes that are of an introductory nature to leverage the state's investments efficiently; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NDSA shall adopt OERs as one of its 2019 legislative priorities.

1 GAO (2013). College Textbooks: Students Have Greater Access to Textbook Information.
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/655066.pdf>