

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION:	Senate
FROM:	Elizabeth Elle, Vice-Provost, Learning & Teaching and Chair, Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning 
RE:	Adoption of a statement in support of Open Educational Resources
DATE:	12 May 2022

At our meeting of 11 May, 2022, SCUTL passed a motion strongly supporting the following statement on Open Education at SFU, and recommending endorsement by the university Senate. This statement has been developed by the library in collaboration with faculty, staff, and students, including members of SFU's ad hoc Open Education Working Group, and has the endorsement of deans and other administrative leaders at the institution.

The statement acts on one recommendation arising from a library report on future directions for Open Education at SFU. Further information will be provided to Senate as the work progresses.

Motion:

That Senate endorse the statement in support of open education.

Statement in Support of Open Education

Simon Fraser University's commitment to being Canada's leading engaged university invites us to find ways of contributing to public knowledge and global education. Open education is a growing movement that seeks to advance affordable and accessible teaching and learning worldwide through the development and use of open educational resources (OER) and open pedagogy.

OER are teaching and learning resources created with the intention of being freely accessible to all. Most are developed by expert educators, and are covered by Creative Commons (CC) licenses that permit users to reuse, remix, and share their content. Open pedagogy, also known as open educational practices (OEP), refers to a set of innovative teaching approaches and methods made possible through the use of OER in the classroom. In practice, this involves designing learning experiences that empower students to make meaningful contributions to public knowledge.

SFU recognizes the value of open education as a means of strengthening community connections and collaborations within and beyond the university. SFU also recognizes the right of instructors to choose, develop, and adapt teaching materials for their classes as appropriate.

SFU supports the development and use of OER as a means of:

- assuring access to flexible learning materials that can be customized by instructors as needed to support curriculum and open pedagogy

- improving access to learning materials for students
- fostering innovative and open learning experiences that empower students to actively engage with communities beyond the classroom
- removing financial barriers to student learning and success
- increasing the visibility and impact of SFU teaching excellence in open education