



NDSA-13-2324

A Resolution in Support of NDUS Institutions Developing Action Plans for the Utilization and Implementation of OERs

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, Open Educational Resources (OERs) are defined as "Teaching, learning and research materials in any medium – digital or otherwise – that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions"¹; and,

WHEREAS, the Envision 2035 study group started by the State Board of Higher Education identified OERs as a point of interest within the Teacher of the Future subgroup, studying benefits and ways to implement these resources; and,

WHEREAS, the NDUS previously had an OER initiative started in the 2018-19 academic year which found that OERs lessened the financial burden on students²; and,

WHEREAS, there have been allocations of funding from the State Board of Higher Education meant for the development of OERs, though this OER funding initiative has had less impact on NDUS campuses in recent years; and,

WHEREAS, with the known variability of which courses would benefit from the implementation of OERs, there must be initiative taken at each NDUS institution to take inventory of who is using OERs, who would benefit from OERs, and who is precluded from OERs due to the nature of their course work; and,

WHEREAS, NDUS professors and students would benefit from not only the implementation of OERs, but also the competitive nature of book vendors seeking to diversify products and delivery methods³; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NDSA supports continuing allocations of funding OERs and supporting the training of OER development for NDUS professors; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NDSA also supports all individual NDUS

¹ Hewlett Foundation, n.d.

² NDUS OER Performance Audit Report, 2018

³ Teacher of the Future, OER Subgroup. Dr. Allen Burgad, et al



institutions in developing action plans for the utilization of OERs while still maintaining the desired learning outcomes.

Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly

Saturday, March 16th, 2024