



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Senate Resolution 22.21

(Stating the sentiments of the Student Senate supporting the adoption of Open Educational Resources in courses at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

**WHEREAS**, The current cost of course materials are burdensome to students [1]; and

**WHEREAS**, The cost of course materials have increased exponentially over the past several years [2]; and

**WHEREAS**, Studies have shown that the high cost of course materials is one of the leading causes of the student achievement gap [3]; and

**WHEREAS**, Students take on additional debt to purchase their course materials, or forego purchasing course materials entirely, due to the high cost of those materials [4]; and

**WHEREAS**, ‘Open Educational Resources’ is 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, and are free to access, use, adapt, repurpose, revise, and redistribute at no cost and with no or limited restrictions [5]; and

**WHEREAS**, The adoption of Open Educational Resources in courses would significantly reduce the cost for students to enroll and participate in those courses; and

**WHEREAS**, The adoption of Open Educational Resources will thus support student success by increasing course affordability and breaking down barriers to course participation[6]; and

**WHEREAS**, Unlike other alternatives, Open Educational Resources better address the shortcomings of the status quo as they are completely free to use, they are available indefinitely, and students are given a true opt-out option; and

**WHEREAS**, Faculty and students both share a concern about course material affordability and its impact on student success; and

**WHEREAS**, We recognize that it is the prerogative of faculty to select the course materials that are most appropriate for a class; and

**WHEREAS**, It is appropriate to seek and consider low- and no-cost options, including Open Educational Resources, if there is no reduction in quality; and

**WHEREAS**, High quality peer-reviewed Open Educational Resources are currently available to be used in courses from a multitude of subjects at various levels of study; and

**WHEREAS**, Open Educational Resources can be integrated into every aspect of a course, incorporating course readings, homework problem sets, and question banks for quizzes and tests; and

**WHEREAS**, Other institutions of higher education have successfully adopted Open Educational Resources at their institutions to promote student success [7]; and

**WHEREAS**, faculty should be made aware of the Open Access Resources Library Guide provided with a list of Open Educational Resources created by the TTUHSC Library System; and

**WHEREAS**, faculty are encouraged to include Open Educational Resources within their courses; and

**WHEREAS**, this will give students access to Open Educational Resources to enhance their understanding of concepts within their courses at a reduced cost; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Student Government Association of Texas Tech University Health Science Center wholeheartedly supports the adoption of Open Educational Resources in courses at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; and

**AND FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be spread upon the Journal and that copies be sent to **Lori Rice-Spearman**, President, TTUHSC; **Darrin D'Agostino**, Provost, TTUHSC; **Jody Randall**, VP of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, TTUHSC; **MATEO ROSILIES**, *The Daily Toreador*, and to the students of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Authors:

BELCIK, K.

DAVIS, C.

MENDOZA, B.

MOORE, K.

CC: Journal

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH  
SCIENCES CENTER

Passed the Senate, 5 April 2022



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Bernardo Gonzalez

President, Student Senate

- [1] <http://studentpirgs.org/campaigns/sp/make-textbooks-affordable>
- [2] <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/college-costs/quick-guide-college-costs>
- [3] <https://uspig.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/NATIONAL%20Fixing%20Broken%20Textbooks%20Report1.pdf>
- [4] <https://studentpirgs.org/sites/student/files/reports/National%20-%20COVERING%20THE%20COST.pdf>
- [5] <https://en.unesco.org/themes/building-knowledge-societies/oer>
- [6] <http://www.isetl.org/ijtlhe/pdf/IJTLHE3386.pdf>
- [7] <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/12/19/more-faculty-members-are-using-oer-survey-finds>