**Motion Regarding Support for Open Educational Resources**

WHEREAS, at the Library Improvement Fund Committee meeting of April 3, 2016, funds were approved for a student researcher to investigate Open Educational Resources (OERs), including textbooks with open-source copyrights and other cost-effective alternatives to traditional educational materials;

WHEREAS, other proposals submitted to the Library Improvement Fund included strategies to share coursepacks and textbooks, demonstrating that the financial accessibility of these materials is a significant concern for students;

WHEREAS, campaigns in support of OERs exist at other schools including the University of British Columbia[[1]](#footnote-1) and show the potential for enormous cost savings;

WHEREAS, OERs include pedagogical benefits such as more flexible and tailored course content, streamlined updates based on current research, and increased overall accessibility;[[2]](#footnote-2)

WHEREAS, the adoption of a single open textbook in a standard first year course can result in up to $90,000 in collective savings for students;[[3]](#footnote-3)

WHEREAS, the Libraries purchase digital collections licenses totaling several millions of dollars each year to provide students and professors access to up-to-date research in their disciplines;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Society, through the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs), advocate for the adoption of free or low-cost educational resources for McGill students including open source textbooks, electronic coursepacks, and increased use of existing licenses owned by the Libraries.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vice-President (University Affairs) be responsible for meeting with the Libraries regarding the aforementioned research project and distributing the research findings to departmental and Faculty Associations.

Moved By:

Chloe Rourke, VP University Affairs

Erin Sobat, Senate Caucus Representative

Malcolm McClintock, Engineering Representative

David Benrimoh, Senate Caucus Representative

Jenujah Vadivel, PT/OT Representative

Marina Smailes, Senate Caucus Representative

Lauren Toccallino, Music Representative

1. <http://ubyssey.ca/news/ams-pushing-open-textbooks-month/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.ams.ubc.ca/leadership/executive/key-projects/open-educational-resources-oers/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://flexible.learning.ubc.ca/news-events/physics-course-adopts-open-textbook-and-saves-students-90000/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)