

Open Educational Resources Initiatives at NDSU (Administered by Student Government)

- Open Resources Board (ORB)
- Open Educational Resources Grant

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The Open Resources Board was developed by the previous NDSU Student Government administration and its role on campus is to serve as the coordinating body for all OER work that is done at NDSU. The board is comprised of representation from students, faculty and administration and is going on its third semester of regularly scheduled meetings.

The reasoning behind the creation of the board is to oversee the OER initiatives at NDSU and to further integrate them into campus. Along with the main board, there are three subcommittees that meet to tackle more specific issues. These committees are research and technical application, faculty awareness and assistance, and financing and grant allocation.

ORB is meant to serve as a coordinating body to bring together all of the individuals who have a vested interest in OER activity at NDSU. The board is still in the growing stage and looking for ways to solidify and move forward on the initiatives presented to the board. Going forward, the board is looking at bringing in speakers to present about OER work done on different campuses, taking a more active role in promoting the grant to faculty and to taking steps to make individuals on campus more aware of what OERs are.

Open Educational Resources Grant

Within NDSU Student Government, we have an OER grant that is available to faculty at our university that are interested in adoption OERs in their classes. The specific dollar amount that is awarded to the grant recipients varies depending on the amount of time taken to adopt the OER, the size of the class, and the amount of impact that switching to an OER has. These dollars awarded to the faculty are to compensate them for their time it takes to integrate OER into their classes.

NDSU Student Government takes a different approach in the advancement of this grant. Since open educational resources have been slow to take off at NDSU, we as student leaders help facilitate faculty awareness of OERs. We do our best to seek out classes and match OER textbook to those classes. Once this is done, we approach faculty in hopes of them adopting the OER.

The grants are completely administered and awarded through NDSU Student Government to faculty. We believe it is imperative that these grants are available to professors to provide quality textbooks to students while in turn saving student's dollars. Going forward, we are looking to award all of our grant dollars to faculty that teach general education classes since we see this having the most considerable impact across campus.

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1. *Please describe the OER activities in which you are involved at your institution.*

Open Alternative Textbook Committee

- Tasked with reviewing and approving applications for funding to convert from a textbook or no resource to an open alternative resource

2. *Why is OER a priority to you as a student?*

As the cost of education continues to rise, we are always looking for new ways to reduce that burden on students. OER allows for a substantial amount of savings considering that students spend an average of \$1,200 on textbooks in just a year. Textbook companies have begun to reach their limit of what students are willing to pay, yet we still must buy their textbooks because that's what our professors are using. OER gives another option for students and professors and can also shift the way publishing companies view the market.

3. *Which other groups of stakeholders have you worked with to implement OER?*

K-State Libraries, Faculty Senate Leadership, Student Governing Association, Student Access Center, New Prairie Press at Kansas State University

4. *What are some of the challenges you encountered in implementing OER?*

Getting faculty to first know about the program and then for them to commit to transitioning their course materials, as most faculty believe it to be a very difficult thing to do or something that won't work for their course. We try to offer workshops and help sessions for them to see that it can be done. It is difficult to compete with textbook companies that have already done much of the leg work for the professor in terms of making quizzes, tests, etc where making their own material is not very appealing.

5. *How can students collaborate with others at the institutions to increase the use of OER?*

Institutions are constantly competing with each other. I think OER would be an interesting use of that competition to drive all institutions to make a certain percentage of their courses OER. As more schools move to this method, the more resources are available and less work has to be done by the professors. Education is also a key piece, because students notice when they don't have to pay for resources, but do not always realize it is something they can push more of their professors to consider.

6. *What are your plans for sustaining the use of OER?*

We are currently trying to secure additional funds in order to continue the program. We have been lucky to have funding since 2013, but it could vanish in a year if it was no longer a priority.

7. *What lessons have you learned from your work with implementing OER at your institution?*

Soliciting proposals from the larger scale, entry level courses offer the largest ROI

8. *What is your vision for scaling your OER work?*

Our hope is that all freshman level courses would be OER courses and no entry student would have to pay for a textbook.