STERLING C. EVANS LIBRARY

OFFICE OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Bruce Herbert
Director

Texas A&M Student Government OER Teaching Awards

Abstract: In 2015, The Texas A&M University Libraries partnered with Student Government to sponsor the establishment of an Open Educational Resources Teaching Award. The student-nominated award acknowledges faculty efforts to address educational costs through the use of open educational resources while maintaining course quality. The program is an outcome of a SECU-sponsored workshop (http://library.tamu.edu/secacademicaward2015/) that had teams of librarians and student government leaders from 13 universities in the Southeastern Conference collaborate to advance open access on their campuses.

We believe this will be valued by faculty for the awards use to highlight teaching quality – an important criteria used in tenure & promotion at Texas A&M University. We know that student government values the awards as they represent a strategy to control the costs of attending Texas A&M University. Finally, the library values the program because of its ability to raise awareness of open access and open educational resources on campus.

The two Student Government resolutions, The Open Access Materials Bill (SB67.77) and the Open Educational Materials Award Establishment Act (SB68.10), are attached as examples that might be copied on your campus.

The award is sponsored by the Library but does not include a cash prize, as the value of the award to faculty is to acknowledge teaching excellence for tenure and promotion, especially as the award is student driven. We also supported student government leaders by helping draft the criteria for the award as well as handling marketing and developing the application submission system. Finally, the library will sponsor a small awards ceremony.

Resources about the OER Teaching Awards

Objective. The Student Government Association (SGA) at Texas A&M University has established two annual awards for faculty members who go above and beyond in adopting and demonstrating exemplary usage of Open Educational Resources (OER) in their classrooms or taking active roles in the creation or dissemination of these open access materials. These awards seek to recognize faculty who promote or contribute to a culture of utilizing free academic resources and knowledge sharing in order to lessen the financial burden on students and mediate the overall cost of receiving an education.

Open Educational Resources are defined as teaching, learning, and research resources that are free of cost and access barriers. These resources carry legal permissions for open use. Generally, this permission is granted by use of an open license (for example, a Creative Commons license) that allows anyone to freely use, adapt, and share the resource. More information on OERs can be found at: http://sparcopen.org/openeducation/.

Award Descriptions. Two categories of awards have been established:

SGA Open Educator Award. Awarded to faculty members who demonstrates exemplary usage of open access materials in their own classrooms. Examples of this include but are not limited to: utilizing free textbooks, providing free electronic notes or textbook alternatives, using/incorporating free educational resources/materials into the course curriculum, etc. Note that utilizing materials that are accessible to Texas A&M students through shared licenses, such as most e-journals available through the A&M Online Library, is not considered OER.

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SGA Open Education Champion Award. Awarded to a faculty member at any level who demonstrates compelling and significant positive impact in areas related to open educational materials, with additional weight given to actions which relate to the contribution or utilization of Texas A&M University's OAK Trust institutional repository OR other repositories. Examples include, but are not limited to: public sharing of research, works, projects, course notes, or other educational resources in OAK Trust and/or championing the goal of making use of free educational resources taken from OAK Trust in classrooms other than their own. For more information regarding OAK Trust, see https://oaktrust.library.tamu.edu.

Criteria for Award Selection

SGA Open Educator Awards

1. What was the net economic impact on the students of this course due to utilization of the OER? (NEI: number of students impacted x estimated economic savings per student as opposed to traditional methods)

2. Was the OER innovative and how did the innovation support the learning environment?

3. How and to what extent did the utilization of these OER increase the quality of education within the classroom"?

SGA Open Education Champion Award

1. Description of OERs Developed by Nominee (include links)

2. Quantity of OER Contributed

3. Quality and Depth of Contribution

4. Effect of Outreach

5. Actual or Potential Impact

Nomination Process

The library created a web page to help advertise the program and guide the nomination process. We provide links to SPARC definitions of OERs and use Google document forms to support the nominations.

Link to webpage: http://library.tamu.edu/services/scholarly_communication/open_ed_awards.html.html

To nominate a Texas A&M University faculty member for the SGA Open Educator Award, students will fill out a Google documents form. They will be asked to provide basic information about the professor and course, link to the syllabus, and write a couple of short answers explaining their nomination. Only currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students at Texas A&M are eligible to nominate a faculty member for this award.
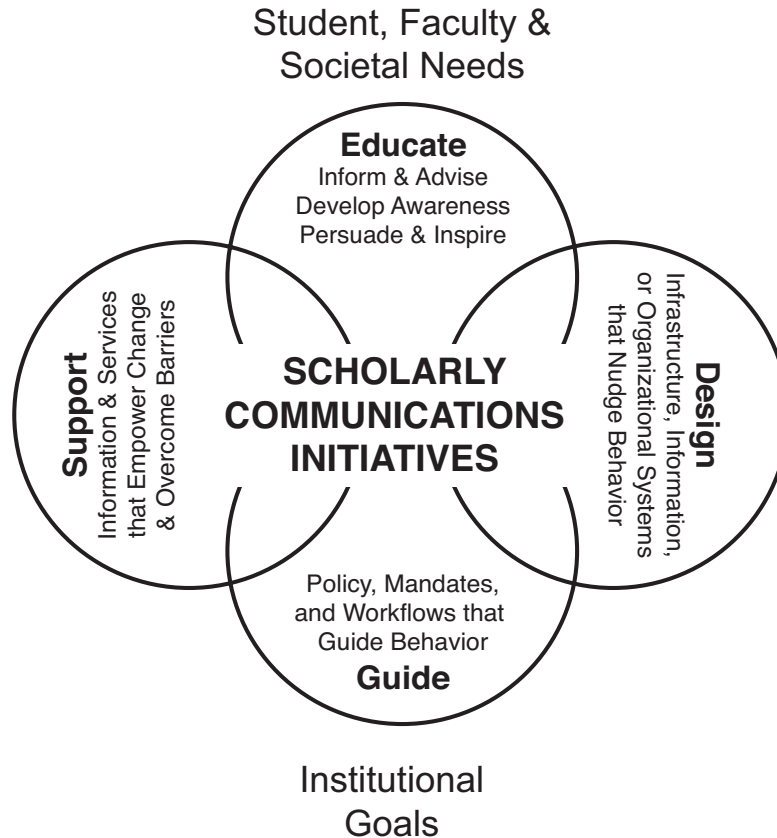
Link to nomination form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Pku5SAZBQeSD33hC55OMZ3xvUUOAZ6DnCq9Pt58ExHE/viewform

To nominate a Texas A&M University faculty member for the SGA Open Education Champion Award, a student or faculty member (self-nominations are welcomed) will fill out a second Google Documents form. They will be asked to provide basic information about the professor, to write a paragraph explaining the nomination, and to link to any relevant or available open educational resources created or championed by the professor or instructor. Given the nature of this award, we welcome nominations from currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students, as well as self-nominations or peer nominations from faculty members.

Link to nomination form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16TwaNcgU-xPPrUuQP9fDmY-8fc-9iHE0pe2kXtC1O3M/viewform

Supporting Scholarly Communication Change at Texas A&M University

We believe that advancing most scholarly communication initiatives at Texas A&M lies in motivating behavioral changes in scholars. This award is an example of our strategy to cause change on campus through innovative programs that (i) are systemic; (ii) relies on an effective partnerships with campus communities; and (iii) creates the tools, services and policies that make up our programs using an iterative design process that draws from the research on motivation and behavioral change, best practices of program design, and organizational change frameworks of Bolman & Deal (2008) and Kezar & Eckel (2002). We will hand out a summary that supports other campuses initiating similar awards.

Student, Faculty &
Societal Needs

Educate
Inform & Advise
Develop Awareness
Persuade & Inspire

Support
Information & Services
that Empower Change
& Overcome Barriers

**SCHOLARLY
COMMUNICATIONS
INITIATIVES**

Design
Infrastructure, Information,
or Organizational Systems
that Nudge Behavior

Policy, Mandates,
and Workflows that
Guide Behavior
Guide

Institutional
Goals

You are welcome to contact us if you would like to discuss establishing similar awards on your campus.

Dr. Bruce Herbert, Director

Office of Scholarly Communications, Texas A&M University Libraries

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The Student Senate
67th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Academic Affairs Vice President - Jason Wood

Sponsored By: Academic Affairs Chair David Sonka, Engineering

Action Taken _____   **Certified By:**   _____

Hannah Weger
Speaker of the Senate

Duly Approved: _____

Kyle Kelly
Student Body President

The Open Access Materials Bill

"A Bill to advocate for open access materials in the classroom."

Whereas(1): About seven (7) out of ten (10) undergraduate students said they had skipped buying a required textbook because the cost was too high. More than three quarters of those students did so even though they believed it could hurt them academically.

Whereas(2): Less than half of college students now purchase a current version of their assigned textbook – opting for older editions or unauthorized copies – down from 62% in 2010.

Whereas (3): A survey at the University of Florida, a fellow AAU University with similarly over 50k students, found nearly 1 in 3 students have taken fewer courses and 1 in 7 had dropped a course because of the cost of textbooks, potentially delaying their progress toward completing a degree.

Whereas (4): The textbook market bears many similarities with the prescription drug market, where the decision-maker is less price-sensitive than the consumer, and the consumer is strongly motivated to purchase the product regardless of what it costs. This enables the publishing industry to increase prices rapidly and engage in anti-competitive practices.

Whereas(5):   In a study of an Open Educational Resources (OER) project in Washington State, again similar to texas A&M, students saved about 90% over the cost of traditional materials, and the cumulative savings of $5.5 million have more than tripled the state's investment in the project and will only continue to grow.

Whereas(6):   The average savings of students who use OER in place of traditional materials is $90.61 per course AND THEREFORE replacing one textbook with OER for each of the 17.7 million undergraduate students in the U.S. would save $1.6 billion dollars per year.

Whereas(7):   OpenStax College, a non-profit textbook publisher based out of Rice University, is publishing open textbooks for 20 of the highest enrollment college courses. Their open textbooks alone have been adopted by hundreds of colleges across the country and have saved students an estimated $30 million to date.

Whereas(8):   The Affordable College Textbook Act (ACTA) (S.1704/H.R.3538) seeks to reduce the cost of textbooks at U.S. colleges and universities by expanding the use of open textbooks (and other open educational resources) that everyone can use, adapt and share freely.

Whereas(9):   Organizations such as The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) have paved a way to smoothly implement an OER foundation.

Whereas(10): All above statements can be found true at:

● Book Industry Study Group (2013). Student Attitudes Toward Content in Higher Education, Volume Three [press release]. Http://www.bisg.org/news-5-815-press-releasestudent-response-to-digital-textbooks-climbs-says-new-bisg-study.php

● EDUCAUSE (2013). Understanding What Higher Education Needs from E-Textbooks: An EDUCAUSE/Internet2 Pilot. http://www.educause.edu/library/resources/understanding-what-higher-education-needs-e-textbooks-educauseinternet2-pilot

● Florida Virtual Campus. (2012). 2012 Florida Student Textbook Survey. http://www.openaccesstextbooks.org/%5Cpdf%5C2012_Florida_Student_Textbook_Survey.pdf

- Graydon, B., Urbach-Buholz, B., Kohen, C. (2011). A Study of Four Textbook Distribution Models. EDUCAUSE Quarterly, v34 n4. http://www.educause.edu/ero/article/study-four-textbook-distribution-models

- Hilton III, J., & Laman, C. (2012). One college's use of an open psychology textbook. The Journal of Open, Distance and e-Learning, 27(3), 265-272.

- Hilton III, J. L., Robinson, T. J., Wiley, D., & Ackerman, J. D. (2014). Cost-savings achieved in two semesters through the adoption of open educational resources. The International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning, 15(2). http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/view/1700

- Koch, J. (2013). Turning the Page. http://www.luminafoundation.org/publications/Turning_the_page.pdf

- OpenStax College. (2014). Our textbooks have saved students $30 million [press release]. http://openstaxcollege.org/news/our-textbooks-have-saved-students-30-million

- Pawlyshyn, N. (2013) Adopting OER: A Case Study of Cross-Institutional Collaboration and Innovation. Educause Review. http://www.educause.edu/ero/article/adopting-oer-case-study-cross-institutional-collaboration-and-innovation

- Robinson, T. J., Fischer, L., Wiley, D., & Hilton, J. (2014). The Impact of Open Textbooks on Secondary Science Learning Outcomes. Educational Researcher, 43(7), 341-351. http://edr.sagepub.com/content/43/7/341

- The Student PIRGs. (2010). A Cover to Cover Solution: How Open Textbooks are the Path to Textbook Affordability. http://www.studentpirgs.org/reports/cover-cover-solution

- The Student PIRGs. (2013). Updated Cost Analysis of the Open Course Library. http://www.studentpirgs.org/resources/updated-cost-analysis-open-course-library

- The Student PIRGs (2014). Fixing the Broken Textbook Market: How Students Respond to High Textbook Prices and Demand Alternatives. http://www.uspirg.org/reports/usp/fixing-broken-textbook-market

Senate Bill   S.B. 67-77 **– Page 4 of 4**   **Further Certified By:**_____

                                                  Hannah Weger
                                                  Speaker of the Senate

**Therefore
Let it be**

   Resolved(1):   The Student Senate recommends seriously investigating the benefits of

Open Educational Resources at Texas A&M and across the Southeastern Conference.

Let it be Further

Resolved(2): The findings be presented to the Faculty Senate and voted upon.

Let it be Further Resolved(3): The Student Senate recommends lobbying efforts to pass ACTA.

Let it be Further Resolved(4): Upon passage should be sent to the following administrators:

- David Carlson - Dean of Libraries
- Dr. Michael Benedik -- Dean of Faculty
- Dr. Ann Kenimer - Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Studies
- Nicole Allen -- Director of Open Education, SPARC
- Michael Young- President of Texas A&M University

The Student Senate
68th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Academic Affairs Vice President – Jacob Modayil
                      Academic Affairs Chair – Nicholas Page, Engineering Caucus
Sponsored By:

Action Taken _____   **Certified By:**   _____
                                                              Aaron Mitchell
                                                              Speaker of the Senate

                                           Duly Approved: _____
                                                              Joseph Benigno
                                                              Student Body President

Open Educational Materials Award Establishment Act
Special Designation – An Act of the Senate

"A bill to formally create an award that will celebrate professors who choose to run their classes with open educational materials."

Whereas (1): Many students are in need financially, with textbooks and materials constituting a large portion of educational expenses; and

Whereas (2): The students of Texas A&M want to thank their professors for saving them money; and

Whereas (3): Professors hold in high regard student-nominated awards given to them for teaching, as it contributes significantly to their tenure dossier and reputation; and

Whereas (4): TAMU Libraries has agreed to completely fund a reception/awards ceremony, including the award(s), for the award recipient(s).

Aaron Mitchell
Speaker of the Senate

Therefore
Let it be
Enacted (1): That S.G.A.C. Chapter 902 – Academic Affairs Policies and Proposals be
amended to include the following:

ARTICLE III. OPEN EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AWARD ACT

Section I.   Legislative Intent of this Particular Article

(a) The Student Senate intends this Article to establish official yearly award(s)
that the Student Government Association bestows upon professor(s)/lecturer(s) at
Texas A&M who demonstrate exemplary usage of open access materials in their
classrooms and/or take an active role in the creation or dissemination of open access
materials, in order to promote a culture of utilizing free resources and knowledge
sharing, thereby lessening the financial burden on students.

Section II.   Award Criteria and Definitions

(a) There will be two types of awards which may be given out each year. The first is for
professor(s)/lecturer(s) who demonstrate exemplary usage of open access materials in
their own classrooms. Examples of this may include: utilizing free textbooks,
providing free electronic notes/textbook alternatives, using/incorporating free
educational resources/materials into their curriculum, etc. At a maximum, three
recipients every year, with a maximum of one at each level: Assistant, Associate and
Tenure, may receive this award. Award recipients are chosen holistically, with review
initiated by student nominations, and final decisions handed out by the Academic
Affairs Committee in Student Senate or a designee unanimously chosen by the
Committee. Minimum information required for nomination to be accepted are the
following: (1) professor name/identification information, (2) copy of relevant course
syllabus/syllabi, (3) brief qualitative reasoning why professor deserves recognition.

(b) The second type of award is for one professor/lecturer, of any level, who has the
largest positive impact in areas related to open educational materials, specifically in
utilization of the OAKTrust repository. Examples include, but are not limited to:
public sharing of research, works, projects, course notes or other educational

resources on OAKTrust and/or championing the goal of making use of free educational resources taken from OAKTrust in classrooms other than his/her own; impact as determined on a holistic basis with information from student nominations or data analytics, by the Academic Affairs Committee in Student Senate, or designee unanimously chosen by the Committee.

Section III. Execution of this Article

(a) It will be the responsibility of the Academic Affairs Committee of Student Senate and the Student Vice President of Academic Affairs, or their designee(s), with the assistance of other members of the executive cabinet and faculty, to solicit nominations from students, review these nominations and acquire additional information if necessary, determine award recipients per the criteria in Section II of this Article, then inform the award recipients of their selection within a timely manner. This process will occur once per academic year. While receiving complete financial support from the TAMU Libraries, the award(s) will be presented at a formal reception/ceremony by an SGA representative and/or TAMU faculty member.

Let it be
Further
Enacted (2): This legislation, upon passage, should be sent to the following
administrators/students:

- Associate Provost Ann Kenimer
- Dean of Libraries David Carlson
- Student Senate Rules and Regulations Chair David Sonka
- Dr. Bruce Herbert, Director of the Office of Scholarly Communication

OPEN EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FACULTY AWARDS

The Student Government Association (SGA) at Texas A&M University has partnered with the University Libraries to establish two annual awards for faculty members who go above and beyond in adopting and demonstrating exemplary usage of Open Educational Resources (OERs) in their classrooms or taking active roles in the creation or dissemination of these open access materials.

SGA Open Educator Award

This award recognizes faculty members who demonstrate exemplary usage of open access materials in their own classrooms. Students can nominate faculty for this award.

SGA Open Education Champion Award

This award recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates the most compelling and significant positive impact in areas related to open educational resources. Faculty and students can nominate faculty for this award.

All nominations are due by 5:00 p.m. on April 12, 2016

Learn More: u.tamu.edu/OEMAwards

LIBRARIES
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

SGA
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY