OERs at UPEI
Research Position

Budget Committee proposition
Wednesday, October 24th 2018

- The UPEISU has advocating for Open Educational Resource development and support from the University and Province since 2016:

External Policy Book - Policy F02: *Using Open Educational Resources In All First Year UPEI Courses* :

> *Synopsis:* The UPEI Student Unions believes that reducing the cost of textbooks is an important part of addressing the cost of an education today. With growing access to Open Educational Resources, and the general survey knowledge taught in 100 level courses, UPEI should try to use Open Educational Resources for all first year courses to reduce financial burden.
>
> **The UPEI Student Union recommends that the University of Prince Edward Island begin to develop a database of Open Educational Resources for first-year courses.**
>
> **The UPEI Student Union recommends that the Government of Prince Edward Island fund an Open Textbook Project to ease the cost of accessing educational resources.**

- From extensive consultation in Spring 2018, Affordable Textbooks was declared one of the 4 policy priorities for the office of the VPAX 2018-2019

- In the 2018-2019 UPEISU Lobby Doc, financially supporting Open Educational Resources at UPEI will be an ask to the government of Prince Edward Island

- For the 2018-2019 academic year, the UPEISU has received an extensive increase in student fees due to the increase in student population. That being said, the SU budget has grown!

- Springing from the Open Textbook Committee (committee comprised of deans, professors, library/resource people, + VPAX) meeting:

Issue: the university admin, nor the deans of each faculty, know exactly HOW MANY OERs are currently being used for each class right now.

SOLUTION FROM THE UPEISU:

1. Considering this is an issue that the SU has been advocating for the institutional development of for years, we have a roll to play.
2. A centralized location of OERs would provide students access to what classes they are CURRENTLY taking or COULD be taking in the future, that use OERs. This provides students the accessible opportunity to look for MORE AFFORDABLE OPTIONS.

3. A centralized location of OERs would facilitate the development of OERs at UPEI because the Library would be aware of all professors who have developed/used OERs, and connect them with professors would like to transition to OERs as well.
4. A centralized location gives the UPEISU a better idea of where HAVE and DON'T HAVE OERs, therefore when speaking with government, can have a better idea for cost in real terms for funding.

SOLUTION:

With the new 2018-2019 budget, the UPEI Student Union will fund a one time student research position, to work side by side with the library + deans to identify and centralize all OERs at UPEI.

Note: this coincides perfectly with the SU policy recommendation highlighted above in yellow.

What Exactly?

- January - April contract
- 14 weeks
- 10 hours / week
- ~~$11.83 / hour~~
- ~~Total cost: $1656.2~~

Update - Budget Committee recommendation:
- $15/hour
- Total cost: $2100.00
- Rationale: create more competition for better research candidates because of better pay

Final Selling Points:
- Successfully addresses policy recommendation
- Creates student employment
- Provides resource for students, staff, and university
- Supports further advocacy efforts
- Grows relationship between SU and university deans, staff, and admin.