Part 1

University at Albany
OER Fellowship Application
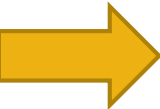
Due: Friday, December 8, 2017

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1. Briefly tell us about your interest in and goals for participating in this project. What do you hope to learn about OER, and how do you plan to use that information to inform your adoption of OER in your own courses?

Although I have been using OER in courses I teach for years, this project will allow me the time and resources to locate, investigate, and adopt quality OER. I anticipate increasing my knowledge of OER 'varieties' and filling in the gaps of what I have learned so far.

I would like to explore and experience different platforms for publishing course materials to make them easier for students to access and easier for sharing with

How the OER Fellows Program came to be

▶ Money from SUNY Fall 2017

▶ Lack of local expertise on campus

▶ Lack of knowledge....who is doing what on campus

▶ Lacking an OER leader

- Initial project lead was the Associate Provost for Online Learning

- Passed lead to the Director of Teaching & Learning Center

⇨ Goal was to find three faculty on campus who were interested or using OER to develop much-needed expertise.

Program Goals

▶ Research and participate in professional development around OER.

▶ Consider OER adoption in own courses.

▶ Evaluate OER platform options for the UAlbany campus.

▶ Offer information-sharing sessions about OER for other faculty.

The Provost's OER Fellowship will provide support and funding for individual faculty who are passionate about OER and the movement to increase their availability and use. OER Fellows will work in the coming year to have an impact on increasing awareness, adoption, and use of open educational resources across our campus with a goal of making UAlbany more affordable and accessible to all students.

The Process for Selecting OER Fellows

▶ Received four outstanding applications from faculty representing four Colleges across campus in these four disciplines:

- Philosophy

- Chemistry

- Political Science

- Information Science

▶ These faculty were accepted into the Fellowship program, began working together in January 2018 and continued throughout the 2018 calendar year.

Key Responsibilities of the Fellows

▶ Research OER materials in their respective disciplines

▶ Research OER platform options

▶ Adopt OER materials in their own courses

▶ Ongoing outreach to multiple constituencies across the University

▶ Provide support for faculty who are interested in adopting OER

The fellows were provided with a PhD. student intern who also
was a full-time instructional designer (from SUNY Oneonta).

Efforts and Accomplishments in Spring 2018

▶ Explored OER repositories and stand-alone OERs within individual disciplines and identified materials that courses throughout the University could adopt.

▶ Studied platforms for publishing OER course materials.

▶ Began developing individual OER projects designed for courses the Fellows taught.

▶ Conducted informal class surveys and sought discussions with students.

▶ Culminating event was a panel discussion called "*Open Educational Resources at the University at Albany: What the Provost's OER Fellows have learned*."

Efforts and Accomplishments in Fall 2018

Focus was on outreach and awareness.

➢ Consultations with faculty.

➢ Accepted invitations to present to University groups.

➢ Proactively sought opportunities to present to departments across campus.

➢ Hosted a SUNY OER Services workshop.

Key Benefits of This Model

▶ Because faculty bring credibility with them this helped increase awareness across campus

▶ Faculty presenting in meetings and on panels gave greater access to multiple audiences

▶ Community building among faculty

▶ Diverse disciplines and colleges were represented

▶ Varied OER interests among the fellows

What Did we Learn?

We still had much education to do because many faculty and administrators still did not understand or see the benefits of OER.

▶ Faculty need guidance and support to identify and adopt OER.

▶ Having a lead on campus is important.

Part 2

▶ Provost's OER Liaison

- More funding from SUNY Fall 2018 allowed the creation of this new position.

- Focus is on efforts to encourage and support greater adoption of OER across the campus.

The Provost's OER Liaison will focus on a variety of efforts to encourage and support greater adoption of OER across the University. As an outgrowth of the OER Provost Fellows program, the establishment of this position signals a goal of moving beyond awareness building and toward significantly increased adoption of OER across the UAlbany campus.

Responsibilities

▶ Provide advice on what programs and resources the campus needs to move toward greater adoption of OER and begin coordinating offerings and resources to address those needs.

▶ Provide advice on ambitious but reasonable goals for campus-level adoption of OER this year and metrics by which we can evaluate our progress toward those goals.

▶ Devise a draft plan for attaining these goals and provide a written version of this plan to the OER Sustainability Project Team.

▶ Serve as the first point of contact for instructors interested in adopting or creating OER at UAlbany.

▶ Collect data to track adoption and creation of OER on campus.

▶ Serve as the point person for UAlbany in work with SUNY and SUNY OER Services..

▶ Serve on the UAlbany OER Sustainability Project team.

▶ Report on and communicate efforts regarding OER adoption to administration and faculty.

Where to begin?

Ten hours of dedicated time per week, beginning 09/10/2018 and ending 05/10/2019

▶ Still have a lack of knowledge….who is doing what on campus?

▶ Still lacking an OER leader.

▶ Still have many faculty and administrators who do not understand or see the benefits of OER.

Efforts and Accomplishments

Focus was on outreach and awareness.

➤ Reach out to all faculty. Primary contact person for possible faculty 2018-2019 OER funding.

➤ Reach out to campus stakeholders including bookstore, libraries, ITS, Advising, Registrar, Teaching & Learning Center, and students.

➤ SUNY OER Program Leads bi-monthly meetings.

➤ University resolution to formally recognize the use of open educational resources.

➤ Provost recognized OER Working Group.

UNIVERSITY SENATE

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

RESOLUTION TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE THE USE OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER) AT UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Definition of Open Educational Resources (OER): *OER is instructional material openly licensed (e.g. Creative Commons license). This includes teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits repurposing by others. SUNY defines an OER course as containing at least 51% OER.*

Introduced by: Council on Libraries, Information Systems, & Computing (LISC)

Date: April, 2019

Whereas the mission of the State University of New York (SUNY) is to provide the people of New York State with educational services of the highest quality, with the broadest possible access;

Whereas a core value of the University at Albany is to provide access to enable the university community to pursue learning, research, and service regardless of economic, societal, or physical factors;

Whereas SUNY and other institutions of higher learning such as MIT, Yale, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and Carnegie Mellon, formally recognize the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) as a means to reduce the cost of higher education;

Whereas student success along with diversity and inclusion are core priorities identified in the current Strategic Plan at the University at Albany.

Whereas OER can potentially increase student success[1] by overcoming barriers to students' access to course materials; by providing affordable, first day, educational alternatives to traditional textbooks while also reducing the cost of higher education; and by allowing faculty to customize materials to their curriculum and to students' needs;

Whereas the GSA Student Assembly at the University AND the SUNY Student Assembly have indicated that one of their key advocacy priorities for 2019 is OER[2];

Whereas SUNY has committed resources on a year to year basis to focus on a variety of campus-level efforts to encourage and support greater adoption of OER across the system;

Whereas the University at Albany has received SUNY resources to advance the use of OER in our courses across the campus and begin developing and implementing strategies to sustain these efforts in the future;

Whereas many other SUNY campuses have adopted similar resolutions; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the University at Albany (1) formally recognizes the use of OER to foster student success through textbook and software cost savings, conceivably higher retention rates, and greater access to educational learning materials and (2) joins with SUNY and other institutions of higher learning to endorse that teaching faculty explore alternate learning materials and the possible adoption of OER as an important part of the University's learning environment and (3) recognizes the importance of advancing the use and adoption of OER on campus and providing the necessary support and resources.

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[1] Colvard, N. B., Watson, C. E., & Park, H. (2018). The Impact of Open Educational Resources on Various Student Success Metrics. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, 30(2), 262-276.
Hilton, J. (2016). Open educational resources and college textbook choices: a review of research on efficacy and perceptions. *Educational Technology Research and Development*, 64(4), 573-590.
Mathien, L. (2018, July). Case Study: Use of Open Education Resources in Business Capstone. *In 4th International Conference on Higher Education Advances (HEAD'18)* (pp. 143-150). Editorial Universitat Politècnica de València.
[2] 2019 advocacy priority OER (GSA Student Assembly Report, UFS Winter Plenary 2019, Vice President Austin Ostro). SUNY FACT2 Council Feb. 2019 report by Michael Weust, SUNY Student Assembly, Director of Academic Affairs.

OER Campus Working Group

➤ Provost recognized working group.

➤ Hand selected stakeholders invited by the Provost's Office to join.

➤ Completed first task together....the SUNY OER Sustainability Plan for UAlbany.

➤ Pushed through coding OER courses for Spring 2020 schedule.

Goal:
This working group will enable key stakeholders to come together to contribute their time, expertise, passions, and lived experiences to help develop and implement strategies to advance the use and adoption of OER on campus.

Going Forward

▶ Code OER sections (course sections where the majority of course materials is OER and the total course materials cost is less than $50) [*Open Educational Resources–Low Cost Course Materials*]

▶ Track student enrollments, number of sections and lead faculty in OER coded course sections.

▶ Identify and define a Campus Support structure to house resources and assist in locating, implementing, remixing, developing, and sharing OER.

▶ Draft a formal "OER Guidelines" policy

- Indicate University support & position.

- Identify expectations for OER courses (what determines a course to be coded as OER) and summarize course development processes and supports.

- Identify available professional development and technical supports (including platforms) for faculty.

- Identify the requirements and responsibilities for receiving an OER course designation from the university. (Use of Scholars Archive, the University's digital institutional repository?)

▶ Implement a permanent campus voice for OER.

Academic Year 2019-2020