

Massachusetts Student Advisory Council



2017-2018 Academic Year

Student Advisory Council Resolution # 001

Resolution in Support of Open Educational Resources at Public Higher Education Institutions to Promote Affordability & Student Success

Introduced By: Student Advisory Council

Sponsored By: Charles Santamaria, Vice-Chair, Student Advisory Council

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts State Student Advisory Council (SAC) is responsible for being the voice and advocate of students at public institutions of higher education;

WHEREAS, the SAC, as a representative entity of Massachusetts public higher education students, acknowledges the costs associated with being a student;

WHEREAS, Open Educational Resources (OER) substantially lowers the price of learning materials for students by providing teaching and learning resources that can be easily accessed and re-used by students and faculty;

WHEREAS, OER support in Massachusetts is in line with a renewed federal effort to explore the benefit of alternative learning materials in the form of a \$5 million pilot program to create and expand OER textbooks at institutions;

WHEREAS, the cost of educational resources impacts students' decisions regarding coursework and registration at all state educational institutions;

WHEREAS, the support of OER at the state level through the Board of Higher Education (BHE) would significantly increase attention and efforts towards the state-wide implementation and encouragement of the use of OER;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The SAC and the BHE recognize OER as a means to bring cost savings to students, thereby advancing the mutual goals of increasing affordability, access and student success; and
- 2) that the SAC hereby commits to continued advocacy and support of the OER initiative at the campus level, by, among other things, encouraging faculty and staff interested in the implementation of OER to participate, and working with the campus administration to further research, develop and implement OER on their campuses; and
- 3) the SAC calls upon Board of Higher Education to work in conjunction with the SAC and all public higher education institutions to explore and identify opportunities for implementing OER on a broader scale in Massachusetts;

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the resolution will be immediately effective on passage.

SAC Vote:

Yes: 19 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Date: April 4, 2018

SAC Chair: _____
Marco A Cobar III

Signed: _____