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| **Policy Statement XV – Open Education Resources** |
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| **Adopted**: March 28, 2017MOTION [21467GA] – No Expiry |
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| **Motion from the 8th Meeting of the 2016-17 General Assembly, March 28, 2017:**MSC: C. Ciona/H. BabbBIMT the ULSU adopt Policy Statement XV - Open Educational Resources.Carried |

WHEREAS Open Educational Resources (OERs) are teaching, learning, and research materials, including textbooks and other digital items, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license; and,

WHEREAS During the eighteen-year period from 1986 to 2004, North American research libraries increased spending on academic journals by 273% and today’s textbooks are sold to students at an incredible markup. (Policy I09 ,Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, March 2013).

WHEREAS high textbook costs contribute to the decreasing affordability and accessibility of post-secondary education and may serve as a barrier to students; and, WHEREAS The OER movement aims to encourage and enable free sharing of learning content, resulting in a greater number of opportunities for more people to learn from educational resources.

WHEREAS Offering information and opportunities for learning is a cornerstone of an effective educational system, and a fundamental step in achieving an informed and capable society;

WHEREAS With technological advancements, the landscape of learning has shifted and so too have the methods for delivering teaching.

WHEREAS the University of Lethbridge does not currently hold a stance on OERs

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT the ULSU,***

1. advocates for implementation of OERs and other zero-cost materials at the University of Lethbridge in order to reduce the cost of education, expand the use of internet and digital technologies in education, and transform teaching and learning by fostering academic innovation through increased curriculum options.
2. encourages staff and students to use, create and publish OERs to enhance the quality of the student experience following the University of Lethbridge’s commitment to liberal education;
3. advocates that the University of Lethbridge collaborate with established groups (eg. CampusAlberta, AlbertaOER, BCCampus, etc ) to develop networks for advancing OERs; and
4. advocates to the Government of Alberta and to the Government of Canada to promote the advancement of OER development provincially and nationally.