

**Resolution to Amend the Faculty Bylaws  
To Establish a College-Wide Open Educational Resources Committee**

**BACKGROUND**

The proposed resolution is brought before the SUNY Old Westbury Faculty Senate by the Ad Hoc Open Educational Resources (OER) Committee. The roots of the Ad Hoc OER Committee stem from the OER Campus Team (founding members D. Quarless, C. DeVirgilio, C. Shehigian, J. Spadaro) that was formed in fall 2017 to help promote and support OER initiatives on campus. In May 2018, the Resolution to Create an Ad Hoc OER Faculty Committee was passed by the Faculty Senate by unanimous consent for a 1-year term. Faculty Senate voted to extend the terms of the Resolution/Committee on May 17, 2019 for a 2-year term, and again on May 14, 2021 for a 3-year extension. Membership on the Ad hoc OER Committee includes: faculty who have taught at least one OER course; OER Librarian; librarians who have knowledge and experience with OER; SGA representative; Manager of Instructional Design, and the OER liaison for Academic Affairs. The Committee sought guidance from members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on how to transition from having an ad hoc status to becoming a non-elected College-Wide committee that may be approved for inclusion in the Appendix of the Faculty Bylaws.

The State University of New York (SUNY) and New York State (NYS) have supported increasing the use of OER. Since 2017 NYS invested \$8 million (\$4 mil to SUNY, \$4 mil to CUNY) annually to support the sustained use of OER across the SUNY and CUNY systems. SUNY OER Services, a service operating out of SUNY's Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS), and under the SUNY Provost was established before NYS funding for OER was available. SUNY OER Services has worked "directly with SUNY campuses and faculty to provide assistance and knowledge to support the adoption of open educational resources (OER) and sustained use of OER as drivers of faculty choice and student success".

Since 2017, about 650,000 SUNY students enrolled in OER courses statewide. State investment of \$16 million has saved SUNY students and families more than \$60 million in textbook costs. There were approximately 20,500 OER course sections. Over 2,600 faculty are teaching with OER and the numbers continue to grow.

SUNY Old Westbury has embraced and supported the sustained use of OER. From fall 2017 through fall 2022, SUNY Old Westbury had 230 OER course sections registered in the course registration system and with SUNY. Those courses reached 5,347 students. Using SUNY's average of \$107 for textbook savings per student, OER courses saved Old Westbury students an estimated \$572,129. The College has an OER Librarian that works to support and facilitate the adoption, adaptation, and creation of open educational resources. Four members of the current Ad Hoc OER Committee also serve as campus Leads (liaisons) with SUNY OER Services.

**WHEREAS**, New York State, SUNY and the College have embraced the use of Open Educational Resources as an effective way to support student learning, and

**WHEREAS**, Open Educational Resources are 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, and

**WHEREAS**, the Registrar's Office includes the OER designation as one of the "attributes" assigned to credit-bearing courses, and

**WHEREAS**, OER course syllabi are reviewed by Faculty with knowledge of OER to determine if a course meets the requirements to be registered as an OER course, and

**WHEREAS,** the Faculty bears primary responsibility for instruction and the curriculum, of which OER programs and materials constitute a meaningful component, and

**WHEREAS,** instituting a College-Wide OER Committee for inclusion in the Appendix of the Faculty Bylaws supports the sustained use of OER.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that Faculty Senate approve the proposed Amendment to the Faculty Bylaws Appendix to establish a non-elected College-Wide Open Educational Resources Committee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Faculty Senate forward the Resolution to Amend the Faculty Bylaws to establish a College-Wide Open Educational Resources Committee to the Bylaws Working Group for review and action.

**Submitted by the Ad Hoc Open Educational Resources Committee on 11/4/2022.**

**[Ad Hoc OER Committee Members]** Christa DeVirgilio (co-chair, Library), Veronika Dolar (Politics, Economics & Law), John Estes (Chemistry & Physics), Barbara Hillery (Academic Affairs), Svetlana Jovic (Psychology), Jason Kaloudis (Library), Yogesh More (Mathematics, Computer & Information Science), Alex Ramdass (Student Government Association), Chandra Shehigian (Information Technology), Joanne Spadaro (co-chair, Library)

**Co-sponsored by:** Curriculum and Academic Planning Committee  
Library Department  
Teaching and Learning Resources Committee