



Open Education Working Group Yearly Update 2018/2019

Completed January 2020

Submitted by OE Working Group
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Introduction to Open Education Working Group

The mandate of the Open Education Working Group (OEWG) is “to foster and support a culture of Open Education (OE) initiatives at TRU.” Open Education includes not only the development, adoption, and adaptation of Open Educational Resources (OER), (i.e., freely accessible, openly licensed resources that are used for teaching, learning, educational assessment, and research), but also aspects of open pedagogy as a site of praxis, a place where theories about learning, teaching, technology, and social justice enter into a conversation with each other and inform the development of educational practices and structures. The OEWG seeks to develop, coordinate, and support sustainable OE initiatives and collaboration amongst departments, divisions, faculties, and schools at TRU for both campus and online delivery.

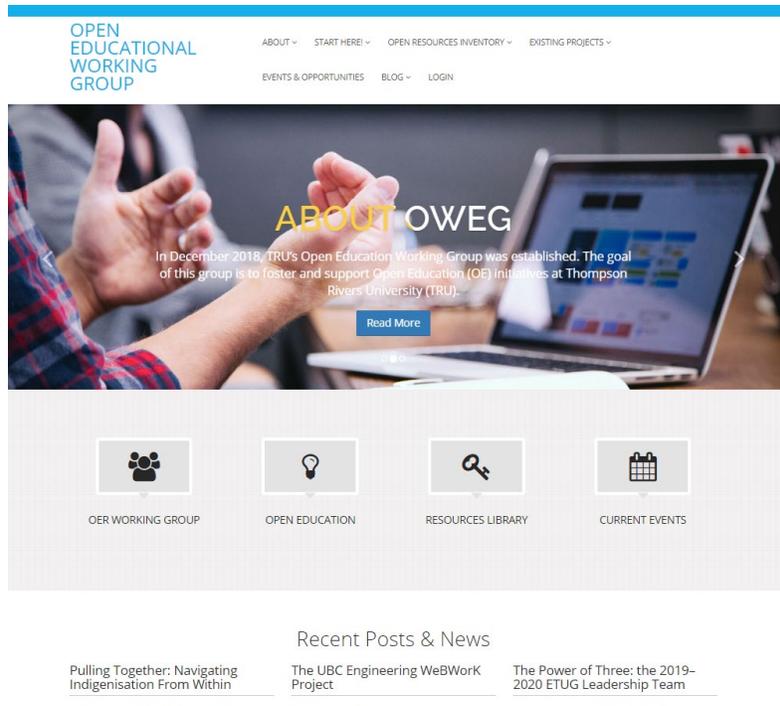
Membership in the OEWG is open to anyone at TRU who is interested in open education. We also actively encourage key stakeholders from across TRU to participate in order to best represent the breadth of supports and interests across the institution. As per the terms of reference, the group has an elected chair and vice-chair and holds regular meetings twice a year or as requested. To date, we have had two meetings of the OEWG.

Accomplishments for 2018/2019

Committee Accomplishments

- 1) Approved Terms of Reference
 - At the November 2018 meeting, attendees approved the draft terms of reference for the new OEWG. Available at: <https://oewg.trubox.ca/terms-of-reference/> and in the Appendix

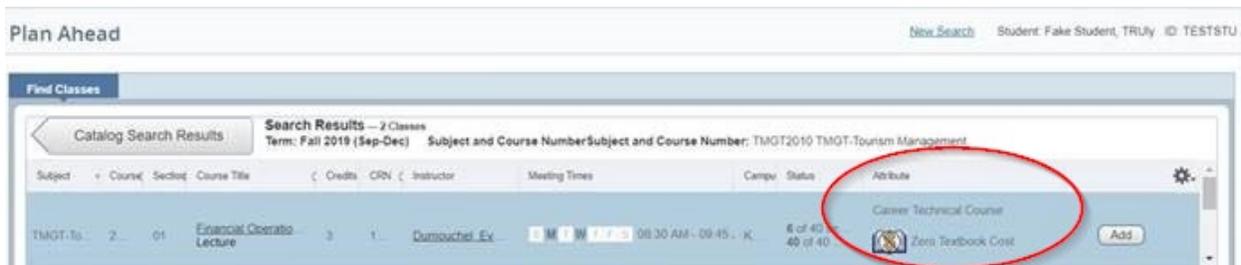
- 2) Developed OEWG website
 - The OEWG website (<https://oewg.trubox.ca/>) was created in the Winter 2019 semester by Open Learning research assistants, Katherine Taylor Robertson and Margaret Poirier, under the leadership of Michelle Harrison (Learning Design & Innovation), Brenda Smith (Library), and Jamie Noakes (Career and Experiential Learning). It was designed to explore the concepts of OE (including both OER and open pedagogy), to highlight OEWG activities and projects, and to provide information about upcoming conferences, events, and research in the field. The website was presented to the OEWG at the March 2019 meeting.



Screenshot of OEWG website

3) Marking Zero Textbook Courses in Banner

- In January 2019, Brenda Smith, Jamie Noakes, Michelle Harrison, and Naomi Cloutier (Open Learning) met with Associate Registrar Marion Hannaford to discuss how to identify zero textbook cost courses through the Banner course registration system. While interested, Marion was not sure how to accomplish this goal, so she agreed to investigate further and get back to us. In May 2019, Marion informed the group that she had figured out how to mark zero textbook cost courses in Banner. After some courses were identified, this data was loaded into Banner in time for the fall/winter registration opening in June.



Screenshot of Zero Textbook Cost Identifier in Banner

4) Created promotional material

- During the Fall 2019 semester, the OEWG chair worked with the TRU Library's Administration and Communications Assistant, Jennifer Spitman to create a "TRU Open Education" tablecloth and banner that could be used at various events to promote OE. The banner was kept simple so that it could be used for multiple different events and would not date. A small OEWG subcommittee approved the banner's design. Both items have been used at the Library's Open Access event "Open Library" and at the Fall Open House display on Student Street in October 2019.

5) Three successful OEWG meetings

- November 2018: 20 people attended
- March 2019: 17 people attended
- December 2019: 18 people attended

6) Promoted OER Development Grants

- Made efforts to promote OER Development Grants via email, newsletters, informal chats with faculty, and an *Inside TRU* article.

7) Developing relationship with the Coordinator, OER Development Grant

- Chair, Vice-Chair, and other members of the OEWG have met with the new OER Development Grant Coordinator, Joe Dobson, semi-regularly since he started his position to build relationships.

8) Applied to have a listserv created

- Submitted an ASAR request in March 2018 to create an OEWG listserv to facilitate communications. Despite multiple follow ups with IT, the listserv was not created until December 2019.

9) Working with TRUSU on Open Education Week

- Members of the OEWG have been working with TRUSU to organize events for the 2020 Open Education Week (March 2-6, 2020), including agreeing to facilitate workshops and panels.

10) Working with MarCom

- The Chair and the OERDG Coordinator met with MarCom multiple times in the Fall 2019 semester to discuss ways that they could help to promote



OE activities at TRU. To date, these conversations have led to an [Inside TRU article](#) and an upcoming article about OE in the 2020 edition of *Bridges*

11) Created Event list for 2019/2020

- The Chair and Vice-Chair identified possible events that the OEWG should attend to either staff a booth or to provide short presentations for, as applicable. These events include:
 - Open house (*each semester*)
 - Open Education Week
 - Open Access Week
 - Welcome Back BBQ 2020
 - Orientations (International and Domestic) (*each semester*)
 - New faculty orientation sessions
 - Chairs Group
 - Presenting to faculty councils throughout the year

General Open Education-Related Accomplishments at TRU

- 1) BCcampus Open Education and Advocacy Research Fellows
 - 2019-2020: [Michelle Harrison](#) (Learning Design & Innovation)
 - 2018-2019: Steven Earle (OLFM): [What students like and dislike about open textbooks](#)
- 2) Two years of SIF funding for OER Development Grants
 - Received SIF funding for grants for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 fiscal year
- 3) OER sprints
 - A “sprint” is an event where a cross-disciplinary group of people come together to work on a specific project on a short timeline. Michelle Harrison (Learning Design & Innovation), Ken Monroe (Learning Design & Innovation), and Brenda Smith have facilitated six “sprints” for OER projects to date:
 - i) Two for Career and Experiential Learning’s open textbook (October 2018 and July 2019)
 - * *Organized by Jamie Noakes*
 - ii) BC History open textbook (May 2019)
 - * *Organized by John Belshaw (OLFM). Financially supported by BCcampus and Open Learning*
 - iii) OER curriculum resources sprint for Learning Design and Innovation (i.e., CELT, educational developers, and instructional

designers) (August 2019, October 2019, December 2019)
* Organized by Carolyn Ives (*Learning Design & Innovation - CELT*)

- 4) OER-related CELTalks in Winter 2019 and Fall 2019 semesters
 - Steven Earle (OLFM): Creating Better Open Textbooks (March 2019)
 - Matthew Stranach (Learning Design & Innovation): MOOCs for Teaching and Learning (April 2019)
 - Lian Dumouchel (Tourism): Strategies for Adopting Open Educational Resources....from small steps to giant leaps (October 2019)

- 5) Open Learning Zero textbook costs completed a diploma for general studies
 - TRU continues to work on developing a Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) diploma/degree program in general studies, similar to what Kwantlen Polytechnic University has for both open learning and on campus. Some projects are taking longer than anticipated, and there are still issues to sort out about differences between OL and campus versions of course because only some sections of a campus course may fit ZTC criteria

- 6) BCcampus textbook grants for Adult Basic Education
 - Izabela Mazur (University and Employment Preparation): Adult Basic Education OER Steering Committee Subject Lead for Math: Advanced-Algebraic
 - Tory Anchikoski (University and Employment Preparation) - Advanced Chemistry Open textbook and ancillary resources
 - Izabela Mazur (University and Employment Preparation) and Kim Moshenko (University and Employment Preparation) - Advanced and Provincial Mathematics Textbook
 - Christine Miller (University and Employment Preparation) - Provincial Biology Textbook adaptation
 - Christine Miller (University and Employment Preparation) - Indigenous People in Education: Stock Photo Collection

- 7) Members of BCcampus Committees and Communities of Practice
 - Michelle Harrison (Learning Design & Innovation): OER Advisory Committee
 - Michelle Harrison (Learning Design & Innovation): Open Homework System Advisory
 - Brenda Smith (Library): BC Open Education Librarians (BCOEL) (completed term as BCOEL Chair in June 2019)
 - Brenda Smith (Library): Business ZTC Advisory Group (invited)

- 8) Shirin Boroushaki (Mathematics & Statistics) is working with BCcampus on testing an Open Homework System
- 9) Applied for BCcampus sustainability grant - Summer 2018 (unsuccessful)
 - TRU applied for a BCcampus Open Education Sustainability Grant for Institutions. This grant is meant to help improve the sustainability of open education at BC public post-secondary institutions. Unfortunately, our application was not one of the ones chosen this go-round
- 10) OERu
 - Matt Dyck, Donald Poirier, Michael Looney, and President Brett Fairbairn attended the Open Educational Resources universitas (OERu) 2019 partners meeting in Dublin, Ireland. Matt, Michael, and Don presented on the OERu first year of study via the TRU, OL Certificate in General Studies. TRU has been tasked with developing 1-2 yet-to-be-determined courses

Conference Presentations

**TRU Faculty/Staff are bolded*

While efforts were made to include all OE-related conference presentations by TRU faculty, staff, and administrators, it is likely that other OE-related conference presentations have taken place this year that the OEWG does not know about. Names of TRU faculty, staff, and administrators have been bolded for easy identification.

- 1) OE Global, Milan, Italy (November 2019)
 - **Brian Lamb** (Open Learning): More Coop, Less Co-opt
- 2) World Conference on Online Learning, Dublin, Ireland (November 2019)
 - Valerie Peachey, **Matthew Dyck** (Open Learning), **Michael Looney** (Open Learning), Claire Good, Wayne Macintosh: [The OERu Rubik's Cube: Fitting the Pieces Together for Transnational Micro-Credentialing](#)
- 3) OpenEd Conference, Phoenix, AZ (October 2019)
 - Heather Blicher, **Brenda Smith** (Library), and Hillary Miller: Not Without My Librarian: Developing OER Advocacy and Community
- 4) ETUG (Educational Technology Users Group), Kamloops, BC (June 2019)
 - **Matthew Stranach** (Learning Design & Innovation): MOOCs are Dead! Long Live MOOCs!

- **Irwin DeVries** (Open Learning Adjunct), **Michelle Harrison** (Learning Design & Innovation), Tannis Morgan, and Michael Paskevicius: Rethinking Learning Design - A BC Consultation
 - **Michelle Harrison** (Learning Design & Innovation), Jo Axe, Elizabeth Childs, and **Keith Webster** (OLFM): Teaching and Learning in WordPress - Panel with Q&A
 - Jo Axe, Elizabeth Childs, **Keith Webster** (OLFM), and George Veletsianos: Fostering a Culture of Openness: A Work in Progress
 - **Brian Lamb** (Open Learning), Clint Lalonde, Grant Potter, and Tannis Morgan: OpenETC: Where We've Been, Where We're Going
 - **Kathleen Scherf** (Journalism, Communications & New Media) and **Thomas Sandoff** (Open Learning): Deep Mapping as a Pedagogy (<https://foodloops.trubox.ca/>)
 - **Troy Welch** (Learning Design & Innovation): TinyMCE to Gutenberg: Writing in Wordpress the New Way
- 5) Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE), Winnipeg, MB (June 2019)
- **Catharine Dishke Hondzel** (CELT), **Kathy Gaynor** (Library), and **Naomi Cloutier** (Open Learning), **Ken Monroe** (Learning Design & Innovation), and **Brenda Smith** (Library): Igniting OER Development with Institutional Grants
- 6) BC Studies Conference, Kamloops, BC (May 2019)
- **John Belshaw** (OLFM), Eryk Martin, **Tina Block** (Philosophy History Politics), Laura Ishiguro, and **Brenda Smith** (Library): The BC History Textbook Sprint
- 7) Canadian Network of Innovation in Education, Vancouver, BC (May 2019)
- **Terryl Atkins** (Visual & Performing Arts), **Marie Bartlett** (Learning Design & Innovation), **Jon Fulton** (Open Learning), **Thomas Sandhoff** (Open Learning), and **Carolyn Teare** (Open Learning): Team Visual: Sailing the Open Sea, Together
 - **Melissa Jakubec** (Learning Design & Innovation): Diving In: Creating an Open Repository of Learning Activities
- 8) OER19, Galway, Ireland (April 2019)
- Grant Potter, **Brian Lamb** (Open Learning), Tannis Morgan, and Clint Lalonde: #OpenETC: A Collaborative or a Cooperative?

- **Michelle Harrison** (Learning Design & Innovation), Tannis Morgan, **Irwin Devries** (Open Learning Adjunct), and Michael Paskevicius: Crowdsourcing the Untextbook
 - Una Daly, James Glapa-Grossklag, and **Michelle Harrison** (Learning Design & Innovation): Critical Interrogation of OER Degrees and Zed Creds -- Reducing Equity Gaps or Just Lowering Textbook Costs?
- 9) Association for Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning BC/Yukon Conference (ACE-WIL), Vancouver, BC (April 2019)
- **Jamie Noakes** (Career and Experiential Learning) and **Shawn Read** (Career and Experiential Learning): How to Beg, Borrow or Steal a Textbook that Your Students Will Use! Highlight TRU's New Open Educational Resource
- 10) Cascadia Open Education Summit, Vancouver, BC (April 2019)
- **Michelle Harrison** (Learning Design & Innovation), Michael Paskevicius, Tannis Morgan, and **Irwin Devries** (Open Learning Adjunct): Critical Learning Design and the Untextbook Sprint
 - **Gloria Ramirez** (Education) and Trista Hill: Insights from the Use of OERs in Education Research Methods Courses
- 11) TRU Teaching Practices Colloquium, Kamloops, BC (February 2019)
- **Christine Miller** (University and Employment Preparation), Amrita Ollek, Serena Reves, and Kirsten Hales: Opening Up the Human Body (But Not Literally)
 - **Jamie Noakes** (Career and Experiential Learning), **Brenda Smith** (Library), **Ken Monroe** (Learning Design & Innovation), and **Michelle Harrison** (Learning Design & Innovation): How to Herd Cats to Write an OER Textbook
 - **Gloria Ramirez** (Education) and Trista Hill: Insights from the use of OERs in Education Research Methods course.

Challenges

- 1) Inventory Data Collection
- Members of the OEWG have tried multiple ways to conduct an inventory of TRU courses that are “zero textbook cost” whether they use OER, library resources, or do not have any textbook costs due to the type of course. We had two research assistants approach department chairs to obtain information, asked the Bookstore if they had a list of courses that

do not purchase textbooks, created an online form for self-reporting, and had an administrative assistant in Open Learning contact all the dean's administrative assistants for a list of courses that had identified that they were zero textbook cost. We also continue to work closely with BCcampus to share information when relevant (i.e., when courses use an open textbook). This data is needed to provide a snapshot of what's happening at TRU, to identify courses for TRU's Zero Textbook Cost programs, and to populate Banner to let students know about zero textbook cost courses when they register. Unfortunately, none of our attempts have provided us with the comprehensive information that we need. So, while we now have the technical ability to clearly mark zero textbook cost courses, we lacked the consistent data to make it happen. At the December 2019 OEWG, Randy matters (Bookstore) said they have comprehensive data that may help, and he forwarded the spreadsheet to the OEWG Chair. The next step is figuring out how to translate the data for our purposes.

The Chair of the OEWG has contacted Institutional Planning and Effectiveness to discuss other options because we need complete data that can be obtained regularly and sustainably. This data would be used by the OEWG, to mark courses in Banner, and to keep BCcampus informed about TRU's OE progress.

2) Faculty Push Back

- Some faculty have expressed concerns about TRU's efforts to promote OE. They fear that they will be "forced" to use OER even if they did not think that OER was appropriate to their courses, that OER have inferior quality to traditional textbooks, and that enrollment for their courses would be negatively affected if students saw that the course was not marked "zero textbook cost."

Other faculty have expressed concerns about the concept of marking courses as "zero textbook cost" in Banner, even if they currently use OER. They fear that they would lose flexibility which essentially impacts their academic freedom; they would not be able to change what kind of course materials that they use, and they would be committed to continuing to use non-traditional textbook materials.

Even some faculty that currently use OER are concerned that if their course is marked in Banner as ZTC, they would not be able to change what resources they use in their course.

- 3) Connecting with faculty to promote OE at TRU
 - A better means of communication with faculty is needed to help promote OE. We hope that appearing at campus events, getting a listserv up and going, and presenting at faculty councils will help us to connect with faculty.
- 4) Finding out what is happening on campus - are we connecting with the right people
 - At this point, the OEWG is still word of mouth. It is likely that other OE activities are happening that we are not aware of at this time. Hopefully, as our communications channels get better, we will have a clearer picture.

Recommendations

- 1) At this time, trying to get the OEWG up and running has been off the side of our desks when we have time. Which means it is not consistent, much as we would like it to be. This model is not sustainable in the long term. Perhaps having someone cross-campus in a senior leadership role to support and advocate for OE, similar to what Rajiv Jhangiani does at Kwantlen Polytechnic University is a model that should be considered.
- 2) Funding. At this point, there are no dedicated funds to support OE. Which means that finding funds for things like banners, brochures, etc. is difficult. Similarly, if someone from BCcampus comes to visit, there are no funds to support that. It also makes it difficult for OLFMs to participate if they are interested.

Next Steps

- 1) Develop a presentation for consistency and present at all the faculty councils with an OE champion from that faculty.
- 2) Become more visible at campus events by developing a list of events that we could attend
 - a) Send the list around our listserv to identify champions/volunteers to assist at each event
- 3) Develop a survey to gain further insight into how to grow our scope of influence on campus
- 4) Continue to build the OEWG website and promote the website through the TRU listserv
- 5) Develop and 'launch' marketing campaign of open education initiatives at TRU

Appendix

TRU Open Education Working Group

Terms of Reference

Mandate

To foster and support a culture of Open Education (OE) initiatives at TRU.

Scope

To expand and support sustainable Open Education (OE) initiatives and to support collaboration amongst departments and faculties at TRU for both campus and online delivery. These initiatives include the development, adoption, and adaptation of Open Educational Resources (OER) and open pedagogies.

Membership

Participation will be open to anyone interested in open education. Membership will be encouraged from key stakeholders to best represent the breadth of supports and interests across TRU. A chair and vice-chair will be elected by the working group membership for a year term. The vice-chair will take on the role of the chair the subsequent year to foster sustainable succession planning. In the absence of the chair the vice-chair will fulfill the chair role. The chair will organize and chair meetings, will serve as a contact for open initiatives and projects as needed and work with sub-groups to help promote successful completion of projects.

Key stakeholders may include one or more representatives from the following departments/divisions:

- University Library
- CELT
- Open Learning
- TRUSU
- Office of Aboriginal Education
- TRU World
- Marketing and Communications

- Information Technology Services
- TRUFA
- TRUOLFA
- Enrolment Services and University Registrar
- Ancillary services

Faculty Representation:

- Arts
- Business and Economics
- Science
- Education and Social Work
- Trades and Technology
- Adventure, Culinary Arts, Tourism
- Law
- Nursing
- Student Development

Responsibilities

The OEWG will work towards the development, coordination, and support of Open Education initiatives, which will include but not be limited to:

- Develop a coordinated strategy for OER development (campus and online) including Zed-Cred and OERu;
- Inventory all TRU OER and open pedagogy efforts (existing; developing; prospective);
- Assist in the coordination of resources (SIF grant in place and proposals for further SIF grants) to support development, launch, sustainability, scale, and maintenance);
- Review and analyze historical and post-OER enrolment data in order to inform OER strategies and activities;
- Create a sustainable practice of OE development and usage;
- Investigate and share best practices;
- Assist with 'launch' & marketing campaign of open education initiatives;
- Collaborate on workshops and research initiatives to promote and evaluate open initiatives;
- Collaborate with BCcampus on various open initiatives
- Develop and maintain an evaluation strategy for measuring the impacts of various open education initiatives and projects

Meetings

Meetings will be initiated by the Chair at least once per quarter. Meetings will take place in person or via telephone conferencing.

Amending the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference may be revised upon the recommendation of the committee.

Date: November 23, 2018