



Open Education Working Group Yearly Report 2024/2025

Completed June 2025

Submitted by OE Working Group

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Overview of 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 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.

Highlighted Accomplishments for 2024/2025

Working Group Accomplishments

1. Held two OEWG meetings
 - October 30, 2024: 18 people attended
 - April 11, 2025: 19 people attended
2. Elected a new Vice Chair for OEWG
 - In the Spring 2024, Melanie Latham (Coordinator of Educational Technologies) was elected Vice Chair of the group. As per standard succession practice, she will take over the role as OEWG Chair in June 2025.
3. Updated the OEWG distribution list
 - The Mailman listserv was decommissioned by IT Services as it was no longer supported or funded. The group transitioned to a TRU distribution list (limited to @tru.ca addresses) and explored options for maintaining communication with students, TRUSU representatives, and external members.
4. Promoted upcoming events via the distribution list and informal faculty communications
5. OpenEd Talks (Joint initiative)
 - A joint initiative between TRU, University of Calgary, Mount Royal University, and UBC held weekly lightning talks on Wednesdays in March. The event drew approximately 50 attendees per session, including international participants from Australia and Germany. TRU hosted in-person viewing sessions at HOL and manages the OE Talks website. The event will be offered again in 2026.

6. Supported UNSDG Open Pedagogy Fellowship
 - TRU continued participation in the UN Sustainable Development Goals open pedagogy faculty fellowship program. Two fellows joined in 2024/2025 (down from seven the prior year). Fellows are encouraged to present at TRU's Teaching Practices Colloquium (TPC). The fellowship program is active until 2030.

General Open Education-Related Accomplishments at TRU

1. Open Press ISP Initiative Update
 - The TRU Open Press continued its ISP-funded work, supporting a range of open textbook development, copy editing, web design, and faculty collaboration projects. The Open Press advisory board and selection committee continued active governance with OEWG involvement.

Open Education Projects & Supports at TRU

1. Terryl Atkins

Role: Faculty – Associate Teaching Professor, Communication & Visual Arts

Course/Project: Visual Culture (1500/1501); Cinematic Vision of the Apocalypse

Work Undertaken:

- Uses OER resources regularly in courses
- In-person assignments include online components (websites)
- Actively engaged in OEWG initiatives

2. Brenda Smith

Role: Faculty – Open Education Librarian

Course/Project: Open Education Talks; ZTC Inventory; Open Learning OER support

Work Undertaken:

- Completed OER identification projects for Open Learning courses
- Conducting ZTC inventory at TRU (every semester)
- Co-organized OpenEd Talks with UofC, Mount Royal, and UBC — held in March with ~50 attendees/week
- Presented with Lindsay Blackstock, Sharon Brewer, and Verena Roberts on PASS framework at a chemistry conference and will present at the international ICDE conference in New Zealand
- Exploring meeting with Open Press about a Library repository

3. Hilary Schmidt

Role: Staff – Instructional Designer

Course/Project: Organic Chemistry (second-year); Anesthesia Assistant virtual simulation

Work Undertaken:

- Working with course developer to update organic chemistry textbook, including a new inclusion component for a more inclusive and current approach

- Developing a virtual simulation game for anesthesia assistants, funded through the Open Press
- Advocates for open resource adoption and adaptation in all major course revisions

4. Jessica Obando Almache

Role: Staff – E-Learning Support Technician, TRU Open Press

Course/Project: Open Press projects

Work Undertaken:

- Coordinating and working on multiple Open Press projects
- Researching Search Engine Optimization strategies to improve discoverability of open resources

5. Kaitlyn Meyers

Role: Staff (Open Press project contributor)

Course/Project: Open textbook copy editing

Work Undertaken:

- Working on and editing open textbooks coming through the Open Press
- Major project: Plumber Apprenticeship manual for Skilled Trades BC
- Recognized for excellence in mentoring co-op students and training

6. Naomi Cloutier

Role: Faculty – Open Learning

Course/Project: Multiple Open Learning courses (ZTC/OER)

Work Undertaken:

- Working to adopt open textbooks as often as possible in course development and redevelopment
- Reconnecting with OEWG to better coordinate OER tracking across Open Learning portfolio

7. Leanne (Lian) Dumouchel

Role: Faculty – Teaching Professor, Tourism Management

Course/Project: Tourism Management courses; The Marketing Map (open textbook)

Work Undertaken:

- Completed sabbatical last fall and finished authoring The Marketing Map open textbook
 - Implemented textbook in current semester's courses and shared with faculty across the country
 - Collecting student feedback on their experience with the open textbook
- Received CELT grant to develop AI-enabled/assisted open course activities with a student research assistant

8. Michelle Harrison

Role: Faculty – Instructional Designer & Associate Professor, Open Learning

Course/Project: SSHRC-funded research; Open Learning OER courses

Work Undertaken:

- Of 29 new revision courses in Open Learning, 26 are using OER

- Wrapping up two major research projects analyzing student data on experiences with open pedagogy and open tools
- Working to compile a list of courses using OER for the OER catalogue

9. Trent Tucker

Role: Faculty – Associate Teaching Professor, School of Business & Economics

Course/Project: Business Analytics OER (planned); Excel-based OERs

Work Undertaken:

- Planning sabbatical in 2026 to develop a Business Analytics OER and supporting materials
- Will modernize existing Excel-based OER resources during sabbatical

10. Crystal Huscroft

Role: Faculty – Chair & Teaching Professor, Environment, Culture & Society

Course/Project: Geoscience open image repository; UNBC open lab manual

Work Undertaken:

- Working to make a lab manual from UNBC openly available, targeting a winter 2026 launch
- Seeking funding opportunities for graduate student editors

11. Sarah Gibson

Role: Faculty – Associate Teaching Professor, Sciences & Arts / Co-op Education Coordinator; Vice Chair (OEWG)

Course/Project: Career Education textbook (v2); Industry Standard Resumes Catalogue; Science Planning OER

Work Undertaken:

- Career and Experiential Learning textbook second version nearly launched
- Received Open Press grant for Phase 3 of the Industry Standard Resumes Catalogue
- Developing an academic and career planning tool for sciences students
- Elected Vice Chair of the OEWG at the Spring 2025 meeting
- Presented internationally on open initiatives

12. Natasha Ramroop Singh

Role: Faculty

Course/Project: Open textbook with hand-drawn graphics; Indigenous community resource

Work Undertaken:

- Completed two projects funded by the Open Press
- Textbook in use in her own classes and in Open Learning
- Shifting focus to Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) research on the impact of OER in the classroom
- University of Wyoming adapted her OER — demonstrating international reach

13. Bala Nikku

Role: Faculty – Open Learning Psychology

Course/Project: International Social Work PressBook; Resilient Futures (TRUBOX)

Work Undertaken:

- Will work on an open education PressBook on International Social Work during sabbatical
- Continuing work on the Resilient Futures site on TRUBOX with Open Press support

14. Marie Bartlett

Role: Staff – Instructional Designer, Open Learning

Course/Project: Multiple Open Learning courses; International Business OER

Work Undertaken:

- Supporting ZTC and open course development across Open Learning
- Developing a brand new OER in International Business, funded by Open Learning
- Supporting Plumbing Apprenticeship Levels 1 & 2 (provincial ZTC certification)

15. Jamie Drozda

Role: Staff – Coordinator, Educational Technologies

Course/Project: Wicked Problems; OpenCourses; Inclusive Digital Design

Work Undertaken:

- Chairing the OEWG and serving on the Open Press advisory board and selection committee
- Supporting the opencourses.tru.ca open Moodle server (co-built with Melanie Latham), hosting ~10 courses across disciplines
- Co-developed inclusive poster design resource (poster.trubox.ca) with Melanie Latham
- Promoting open-source technology adoption across educational technology initiatives
- Supporting distribution list transition and student/external communications workaround

16. Melanie Latham

Role: Coordinator of Educational Technologies & Chair of OEWG

Course/Project: OpenCourses; Inclusive Digital Design

Work Undertaken:

- Co-managing opencourses.tru.ca open Moodle server with Jamie Drozda
- Leading development of the Inclusive Digital Design open resource (based on Moodle course format)

17. Vansh Sethi

Role: Co-op Student, Open Press

Course/Project: Open Press technical projects

Work Undertaken:

- Working on Plumbing Level 1 & 2 open resources
- Supporting website redesign for organic chemistry resources

18. Jesse Perkins

Role: Co-op Student, Open Press

Course/Project: Open Press technical projects

Work Undertaken:

- Working on Plumbing Level 1 & 2 open resources
- Supporting website redesign and new website setup

19. Bensly Pierre

Role: Student – Computer Science; TRUSU Executive

Course/Project: OEWG Student Caucus

Work Undertaken:

- Graduating with Computer Science in 2025; TRUSU executive until September 2025
- Participated in OEWG as student representative

20. Greg Vilac

Role: Student – TRUSU Executive; former Open Press co-op

Course/Project: OEWG Student Caucus

Work Undertaken:

- Worked with the Open Press as a co-op student in summer 2024
- Serving as TRUSU executive and OEWG student representative (term: Oct 1, 2024 – Sept 30, 2025)
- Engaged in learning more about the connection between the Open Press and OEWG

Challenges

1. Listserv decommissioned:
The long-standing Mailman listserv was shut down by IT Services without advance notice. The transition to a TRU-only distribution list means students, TRUSU representatives, and external members can no longer be included in the same list. Workarounds are being explored.
2. Reduced UNSDG Fellowship participation:
Only two faculty fellows joined the program in 2024/2025, compared to seven the previous year, reflecting broader challenges with faculty capacity and awareness.
3. Limited institutional funding:
The ISP-funded Open Press initiative is approaching the end of its current grant cycle. There are no dedicated institutional funds for open education beyond this grant. Advocacy for base funding and awareness of BCcampus funding opportunities is needed.
4. Faculty representation and visibility:
It remains challenging to learn about all open education activities happening across TRU's faculties due to limited communication channels and OEWG membership that may not represent all areas of the institution.

Recommendations

1. Develop a sustainable plan to maintain communication with students, TRUSU representatives, and external stakeholders following the listserv transition.
2. Find and advocate for new funding opportunities for open education at TRU, including BCcampus grants, now that ISP funding for the Open Press is ending.
3. Develop strategies for gathering insight into and tracking OE initiatives across TRU.
4. Promote participation in the UNSDG Open Pedagogy Fellowship to increase faculty engagement.

Next Steps

1. Continue to build the OEWG website and promote the website through TRU Connect