



**Council of Alberta University Students**  
*Open Textbooks Policy*  
Policy #14-01

WHEREAS the cost of textbooks and supplies can exceed \$1,600 per year and is a significant burden on students; and

WHEREAS Open Education Resources (OER), such as textbooks made available online, can reduce the cost of textbooks by over 80%; and

WHEREAS requirements to purchase new textbook editions burdens students with extra financial costs, especially given the limited added value in new editions every year; and

WHEREAS other provinces, such as British Columbia, have already undertaken open textbook initiatives and have experienced success; and

WHEREAS open textbook initiatives are cost-effective in the long term for both students and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS open textbooks provide creative learning in the form of flexible and customizable platforms for faculty and learners; and

WHEREAS Campus Alberta values innovation in post-secondary, and open textbooks serve as a clear example of this type of innovation; and

WHEREAS Alberta has Canada's lowest participation rate; and

WHEREAS the cost of education is cited as one of the most significant barriers to participating in post-secondary.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Alberta University Students advocate to the Government of Alberta to undertake an open textbook initiative in order to reduce the financial burden associated with textbooks and supplies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of Alberta University Students advocate to the Government of Alberta to work with the federal government and the Council of Ministers of Education to study and implement a national open textbook strategy and build on prior successes.