Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: Brandon Beyer – Student Body President

Sponsors: Nicolas Hanson – College of Business and Public Administration; Michael Kelesch – Residence Halls

CC: Brandon Beyer - Student Body President, Blake Andert - Student Body Vice President, Cassie Gerhardt - Student Government Advisor, Andrew Freich - Student Organization Funding Agency Advisor; Dr. Laurie Betting - Vice President for Student Affairs, Cara Halgren - Associate Vice President for Student Services & Dean of Students

Date: 09/21/2016

Re: Resolution in Support of Open Educational Resources at UND

Whereas, the overall cost of higher education has consistently become more egregious to students, and

Whereas, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has measured an 812% increase in college textbooks over the past 38 years (over triple the increase in inflation), costing the average student nearly $1,200 in textbook and supplies cost (per The College Board), and

Whereas, a growing number of digital Open Educational Resources (OER) now exist, including textbooks and instructional materials that are readily available to educators at no cost, which, if deemed appropriate and assigned by faculty, would provide significant savings to our students, and

Whereas, a trial implementation of OER’s throughout only three courses at UND saved students over $1 million in textbook savings, and

Whereas, these resources allow for the aggregation of knowledge and instruction in a manner that cannot be replicated by traditional textbooks, and

Whereas, Open Educational Resources provide the ability for educators to tailor these abundant resources to meet the exact specification of their teaching objectives, and

Whereas, a 2014 study by Babson Survey Research Group revealed that 73.4% of faculty exposed to OER’s feel that they are either superior or equivalent in quality to traditional resources, and

Whereas, the further implementation of Open Educational Resources presents the University of North Dakota with an opportunity to be a national leader in an imminent technological advancement in education that benefits both educators and student, and

Therefore, be it resolved that the UND Student Senate supports and encourages the further implementation of Open Educational Resources (OER) throughout the University of North Dakota.

Brandon Beyer, Student Body President