Open Education Strategic Plan 2018-2023

Open Education Strategic Plan 2018–2023

KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

What is Open Education?

Open education encompasses resources, tools and practices that employ a framework of open sharing to improve educational access and effectiveness worldwide (Open Education Consortium). This includes the creation, adaptation, and adoption of open educational resources (OER), the benefits of which include gains in course performance, student retention, and program completion (Hilton, 2016; Hilton, Fischer, Wiley, & William, 2016). It also includes open pedagogies that involve designing architectures and using tools for learning that enable students to shape the public knowledge commons of which they are a part.

Kwantlen Polytechnic University is a sector leader in open education

Open education at KPU encompasses diverse activities that support program areas and lead the development of innovative global education initiatives. This includes the creation, adaptation, and adoption of open educational resources, our Zero Textbook

Cost (ZTC) programs, and a diverse range of innovative open pedagogies.

As a special purpose teaching university with an open access mandate, we are committed to affordable education and to crafting new ways to enable learners to realize their ambition and career plans. We encourage and emphasize new ways our faculty engage with colleagues worldwide in innovative knowledge-practice networks to improve the learning experience. Through this approach we serve as a model for the way our graduates will engage with their own professional and practice communities.

Highlights:

KPU leads British Columbia post-secondary institutions in the adoption of open textbooks and other open educational resources.

On November 1, 2017 KPU launched Canada's first *Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC)* program, which enables students to complete their first year of study and earn the Certificate of Arts with zero required textbook costs. This was followed by the launch of a second ZTC program in August 2018 (the Adult Graduation Diploma), a third in March 2019 (the Associate of Arts in General Studies), and three more in July 2019 (the Diploma in General Studies, the Associate of Arts Degree in Sociology, and the Certificate in Foundations in Design). In October 2019 KPU launched North America's very first four-year ZTC program in the form of the Bachelor of Arts Degree in General Studies. Across six semesters, this initiative has saved KPU students an estimated $3.1 million.

Many faculty and staff at KPU have embraced open pedagogies and work with students to create open educational resources. Still others

have authored or adapted open textbooks. Their work is supported by OPUS, the Library's Open Publishing Suite.

KPU is known for its research on open education and textbook affordability. This research has shown that a majority of post-secondary students in British Columbia do not purchase at least some of their required textbooks because of their high cost and that a significant minority of students choose or withdraw from courses because of textbook costs. At the same time, open textbook efficacy research at KPU has shown that students assigned free and open textbooks in place of perform the same as or better than those assigned expensive commercial textbooks.

KPU is a member of the Open Education Consortium, the International Council for Open and Distance Education, and the Creative Commons Global Network. We collaborate with Montgomery College (Maryland, USA) for our UN SDG Open Pedagogy Fellowship program and with Keene State College (New Hampshire, USA) for a virtual Open Pedagogy Learning Community. We are also an anchor partner of the OER universitas and are working collaboratively with like-minded institutions worldwide to build open online courses to serve under-served populations and widen access to post-secondary education.

Members of the KPU community have been recognized for their leadership in open education, including through multiple awards from BCcampus[1] [2] [3], multiple research fellowships from the Open Education Group, and invited participation in UNESCO and UN events. KPU's open education initiatives are routinely profiled in local, national, and international outlets.

KPU OER grant recipients together with members of the Open Education Working Group, at the 2017 Open Textbook Summit. Photo credit: BCcampus *(CC-BY-NC)*

KPU's leadership in open education is a product of both strong grassroots support across the institution and strong support from senior leadership. Internally, we owe much of our success to the diligent and thoughtful efforts of members of KPU's Open Education Working Group while externally, our close and ongoing partnership with BCcampus Open Education has been critical to our progress. Over the past three years, KPU's open education initiatives have grown in both scope and impact thanks in part to dedicated support in the forms of a 1-year appointment of a University Teaching Fellow in Open Studies (via a 50% course release) in 2017, a Special Advisor to the Provost on Open Education in 2018, and, most recently, the establishment of the new position of Associate Vice Provost, Open Education in 2019.

In 2018, KPU hit another milestone, with at least one open textbook creation, adaptation, or adoption project within each

Faculty and School at KPU. This progress and momentum, together with the aforementioned internal and external support and the initiation of broader institutional vision and academic planning initiatives, positioned KPU perfectly to embark on its first strategic plan for open education.

This living document outlines a vision and strategy for KPU's open education initiatives for the next five years. It was drafted in collaboration with the KPU Open Education Working Group along with other key internal stakeholders (see the list of contributors) and in conjunction with Vision 2023 and Academic Plan 2018-2023, and refined after seeking feedback from the wider KPU community and key external stakeholders (e.g., BCcampus). In the spirit of openness, this plan has been drafted and revised on the open web, using the very tools and technologies (Pressbooks and H5P) that we use to support the creation of open textbooks. The plan has also been intentionally published with a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License in order to facilitate reuse and adaptation in other contexts. I invite you to provide your feedback by annotating this document using Hypothes.is or by sending an email to open@kpu.ca

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Associate Vice Provost, Open Education

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CHAPTER 2

Territorial Acknowledgement

Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) takes its name from the Kwantlen First Nation.

We work, study, and live in a region south of the Fraser River which overlaps with the unceded traditional and ancestral lands of the Kwantlen, Musqueam, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Qayqayt and Kwikwetlem peoples.

Proudly sharing the name of the Kwantlen First Nation, the word 'Kwantlen' means Tireless Runner, and is reflected in the university's motto: "through tireless effort, knowledge, and understanding." The representation of a wolf and salmon in KPU's Coat of Arms, was created by former KPU Fine Arts student, Brandon Gabriel, nephew of the hereditary Chief of the Kwantlen People, Chief Marilyn Gabriel.

THROUGH TIRELESS EFFORT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

CHAPTER 3

Vision

KPU will be a global leader in open education, by:

- improving affordable and equitable access to post-secondary programs
- supporting the creation and default adoption of open educational resources
- enhancing student success and engagement through the embrace of innovative open pedagogies

Group photo of participants attending the OERu meeting in Toronto, 12 & 13 October 2017 hosted by eCampusOntario. Photo credit: eCampusOntario (CC-BY)

INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR OPEN AND
DISTANCE EDUCATION

OPEN EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
MEMBER

OERu

CHAPTER 4

Milestones for Open Education at KPU

AN INTERACTIVE H5P ELEMENT HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THIS VERSION OF THE TEXT. YOU CAN VIEW IT ONLINE HERE:
HTTPS://KPU.PRESSBOOKS.PUB/OPENEDUCATION/?P=29#H5P-1

CHAPTER 5

Context

This strategic plan was developed in consideration of the macro, meso, and micro contexts within which KPU operates. Among the factors, opportunities, and challenges considered were:

Culture change

Open education challenges some traditions and normative practices in academia, including those related to publishing, prestige, and competition.

Awareness

Education is necessary to raise awareness and dispel misconceptions about open education.

Training

Training is necessary to support faculty and staff interested in open education.

Limited resources

Money and time are both scarce resources at KPU, including to support finding, creating, or adapting open educational resources (OER).

Students

Students are key stakeholders in open education and their voices must be included.

Policies, procedures, & practices

KPU should align policies (e.g., default license for internal grant-funded content creation), procedures (e.g., textbook ordering), and practices (e.g,. recognition) to support open education.

Leadership

KPU is already a sector leader in open education but should maintain this leadership in a way that supports our unique role as Canada's only polytechnic university.

Personnel

KPU benefits from support for open education from senior leadership and several faculty and librarian champions; however, broader participation should be supported to prevent burnout and to ensure that this initiative will continue to be an institutional priority.

Technology & infrastructure

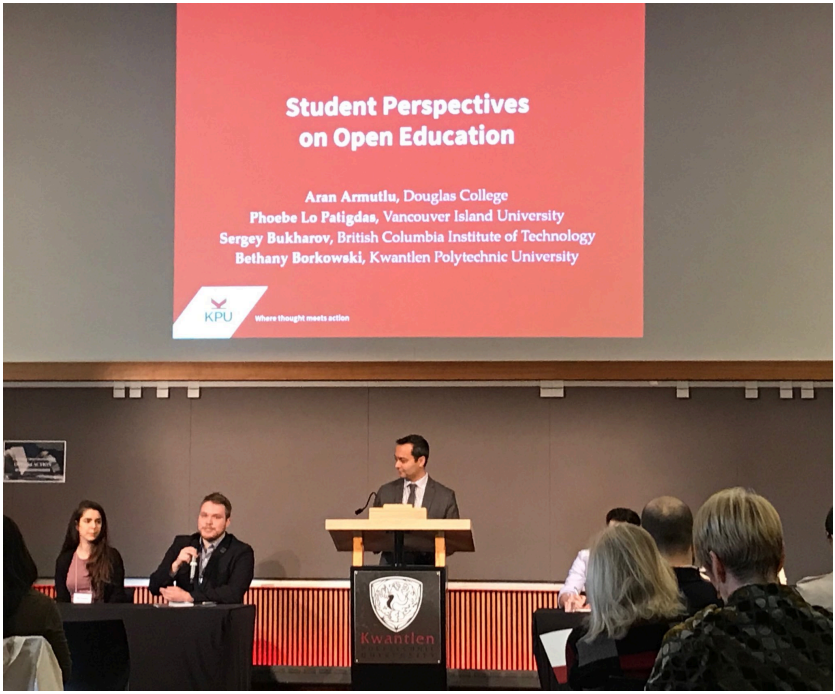
In order to better support open education, KPU will need to invest in technology and equipment (e.g., binding) and integrate open tools (e.g., Pressbooks) with existing and future systems (e.g., learning management system).

Commercial publishers

Commercial publishers pose active and passive challenges to open education at KPU, including by spreading myths about OER, offering sponsorships or other types of funding in exchange for textbook adoptions, and marketing homework systems that necessitate the adoption of a commercial textbook.

Agency

The philosophy of openness values both access and agency. Autonomy, choice, and academic freedom are essential elements of successful open education initiatives.



Student panel during the Open in Action event at KPU Richmond on March 6, 2018. Photo credit: Steve Cardwell.

"Thanks for hosting this event. It was clearly well conceived and had a lot of heart and passion behind it." — Participant feedback on the Open in Action event on March 6, 2018

CHAPTER 6

Spotlight on Open Textbook Adoption

One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: https://kpu.pressbooks.pub/openeducation/?p=33#video-33-1

KPU faculty describe their experiences with open textbooks

CHAPTER 7

Spotlight on the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) initiative

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Quick overview of KPU's ZTC initiative

ZTC:
Zero Textbook Cost

All the credit, without the cost of books

CHAPTER 8

Strategic Goals

Strategic goals for Open Education at KPU between 2018-23:

1. Support the adoption of open educational resources across all Faculties and Schools through education, training & support, system & role integration, and recognition
2. Support the sustainable development, growth, and effective marketing of additional Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) programs
3. Develop a publishing infrastructure and systems to support the creation and adaptation of open educational resources
4. Provide tools, technologies, training, and support for faculty to embrace open pedagogies
5. Establish targeted open education initiatives to attract working adults seeking to pursue postsecondary study and provide program completion encouragement and alternatives for mature learners
6. Articulate OERu courses and offer an exit credential to the

OERu network

7. Develop an institutional open education policy
8. Embed and enhance e-portfolios that reflect open education strategies and acknowledge the added value of global open education practices
9. Collaborate with external partners in support of KPU's open education initiatives

Note: These strategic goals are mirrored in Goal 6 of KPU's Academic Plan 2023.

"If emerging Open Educational Practices are to flourish at our university, support for OEP must integrate with and contribute to our broader efforts to clarify and enhance our strategic position." (Carey, Davis, Ferreras, & Porter, 2015, p. 162)

CHAPTER 9

Operational Goals

Operational goals distill broader, strategic goals into more tangible, measurable actions. Click on the strategic goals below to expand the list of related operational goals:

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https://kpu.pressbooks.pub/openeducation/?p=38#h5p-2

CHAPTER 10

Profiles of Open Education Champions

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https://kpu.pressbooks.pub/openeducation/?p=39#h5p-3

CHAPTER 11

Support for Open Educational Practices

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https://kpu.pressbooks.pub/openeducation/?p=106#h5p-4

CHAPTER 12

Contributors

This document was drafted by Rajiv Jhangiani, then Special Advisor to the Provost on Open Education*, in collaboration with the following members of the KPU community:

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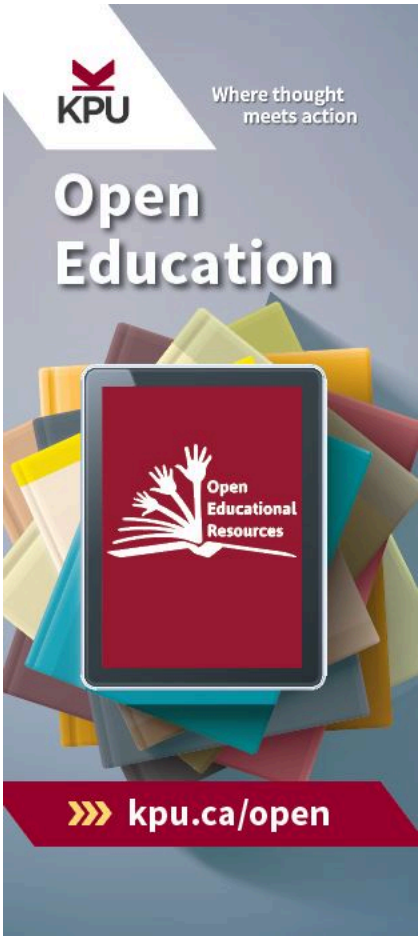
- Joanne Saunders, Executive Director, Marketing and Recruitment



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If you have feedback about this document that you would like to share, please send an email to open@kpu.ca