



Memo

From the office of...

The SRA Engineering

To: Members of the Student Representative Assembly (SRA)
From: Fraser McCauley, SRA Engineering
Subject: OER Surveys
Date: October 17, 2021

To the Members of the Assembly,

Over the past several months, I have taken an active role in learning about Open Educational Resources and their role on McMaster's campus. Open Educational Resources (OERs) are openly licensed educational materials that can be freely used, adapted, or distributed by anyone. Examples include textbooks, lesson plans, syllabi, quizzes or tests, instructional modules, videos, assessment tools and software. Advocacy for OERs has been a growing priority for the MSU over the past several years and this academic year we will be continuing efforts to increase the awareness, use, and funding of OERs. Unfortunately, we currently lack data on the burden imposed on McMaster students by traditional commercial learning materials, or the perceived viability of OERs as an alternative. I have been working closely with the VP Education, Siobhan Teel, MSU Communications Director, Michael Wooder, and members of McMaster's OER committee to put together a pair of surveys to gather this data.

One survey is directed towards students and was recently launched! I encourage all SRA members to complete the survey and promote it to your constituents. The student survey is located here: <https://bit.ly/3lApmUQ>

Perhaps more importantly, we also put together a survey for instructor to better understand how OERs are already used and what barriers instructors face in implementing them further. Instructors are famously difficult to collect data from, so we need your help. The best way to encourage instructors to complete a survey is for their students to ask them. **Please contact your instructors and ask them to complete the survey.** You may direct them to the following link: <https://bit.ly/3nMqEPv>

Feel free to adapt the email template on the following page to suit your needs:

Thank you in advance for your help with this project and please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best,
Fraser



Subject: Educational Resource Survey

Dear Dr. _____,

My name is _____ and I am a student in your _____ class. I am also a student representative at the McMaster Students Union. We are conducting a survey to better understand the use and barriers to creating/using Open Educational Resources (OERs) at McMaster University. I would greatly appreciate if you could take 5 minutes to fill out the survey, which can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3nMqEPv>.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions!
