



# The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 68-10

**The Student Senate  
68th Session  
Texas A&M University**

**Introduced By:** Academic Affairs Vice President – Jacob Modayil  
Academic Affairs Chair – Nicholas Page, Engineering Caucus

**Action Taken**



**Certified By:**

Aaron Mitchell  
Speaker of the Senate

**Duly Approved:**

Joseph Bengho  
Student Body President

**Open Educational Materials Award Establishment Act**  
*Special Designation – An Act of the Senate*

*“A bill to formally create an award that will celebrate professors who choose to run their classes with open educational materials.”*

- Whereas (1):** Many students are in need financially, with textbooks and materials constituting a large portion of educational expenses; and
- Whereas (2):** The students of Texas A&M want to thank their professors for saving them money; and
- Whereas (3):** Professors hold in high regard student-nominated awards given to them for teaching, as it contributes significantly to their tenure dossier and reputation; and
- Whereas (4):** TAMU Libraries has agreed to completely fund a reception/awards ceremony, including the award(s), for the award recipient(s).



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## Texas A&M University

Senate Bill

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Aaron Mitchell  
Speaker of the Senate

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted (1): That S.G.A.C. Chapter 902 – Academic Affairs Policies and Proposals be amended to include the following:

### ARTICLE III. OPEN EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AWARD ACT

Section I. Legislative Intent of this Particular Article

- (a) The Student Senate intends this Article to establish official yearly award(s) that the Student Government Association bestows upon professor(s)/lecturer(s) at Texas A&M who demonstrate exemplary usage of open access materials in their classrooms and/or take an active role in the creation or dissemination of open access materials, in order to promote a culture of utilizing free resources and knowledge sharing, thereby lessening the financial burden on students.

Section II. Award Criteria and Definitions

- (a) There will be two types of awards which may be given out each year. The first is for professor(s)/lecturer(s) who demonstrate exemplary usage of open access materials in their own classrooms. Examples of this may include: utilizing free textbooks, providing free electronic notes/textbook alternatives, using/incorporating free educational resources/materials into their curriculum, etc. At a maximum, three recipients every year, with a maximum of one at each level: Assistant, Associate and Tenure, may receive this award. Award recipients are chosen holistically, with review initiated by student nominations, and final decisions handed out by the Academic Affairs Committee in Student Senate or a designee unanimously chosen by the Committee. Minimum information required for nomination to be accepted are the following: (1) professor name/identification information, (2) copy of relevant course syllabus/syllabi, (3) brief qualitative reasoning why professor deserves recognition.
- (b) The second type of award is for one professor/lecturer, of any level, who has the largest positive impact in areas related to open educational materials, specifically in utilization of the OAKTrust repository. Examples include, but are not limited to: public sharing of research, works, projects, course notes or other educational resources on OAKTrust and/or championing the goal of making use of free educational resources taken from OAKTrust in classrooms other than his/her own; impact as determined on a holistic basis with information from student nominations



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Aaron Mitchell  
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or data analytics, by the Academic Affairs Committee in Student Senate, or designee unanimously chosen by the Committee.

### Section III. Execution of this Article

- (a) It will be the responsibility of the Academic Affairs Committee of Student Senate and the Student Vice President of Academic Affairs, or their designee(s), with the assistance of other members of the executive cabinet and faculty, to solicit nominations from students, review these nominations and acquire additional information if necessary, determine award recipients per the criteria in Section II of this Article, then inform the award recipients of their selection within a timely manner. This process will occur once per academic year. While receiving complete financial support from the TAMU Libraries, the award(s) will be presented at a formal reception/ceremony by an SGA representative and/or TAMU faculty member.

### Let it be Further

**Enacted (2):** This legislation, upon passage, should be sent to the following administrators/students:

- Associate Provost Ann Kenimer
- Dean of Libraries David Carlson
- Student Senate Rules and Regulations Chair David Sonka
- Dr. Bruce Herbert, Director of the Office of Scholarly Communication