



POLICY 9.22

POSITION POLICY

Learner Resources and Cost Savings Sharing

POLICY INTENT

To outline AUSU's position on the Learner Resources and Cost Savings programs

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY

AUSU Council

POLICY RESEARCH

AUSU believes that our members should receive a quality education that is competitive in its use of educational technologies, course and program offerings, and student service. AUSU is also supportive of the provision of electronic materials for our members but is concerned that the shift away from print textbooks does not provide adequate choice for students on what form of learner resource is best for their learning style or budget.

AUSU has advocated for choice since the beginning of this shift in use of learner resources in light of the high volume of member concerns and complaints, particularly in regard to lack of choice in product use and sharing of cost savings with students. Many members have expressed concerns that courses using digital and paper learner resources have the same material resource fee regardless of the licence, although they do not receive the same physical value as they would with a standard textbook.

AUSU considers "choice" in this case as: any option that allows students to select a traditional or electronic version of a textbook (assuming the book is available in both formats), with any cost savings associated with these changes to be passed on to the student.

Cost savings can also be achieved through the use of learner resources that are less expensive than traditional textbooks, such as open educational resources (OERs) and e-texts. Any cost savings achieved through use of these types of resources should also be passed onto the student.

Be it resolved that Athabasca University Students' Union will advocate to Athabasca University to always give students the choice in paper or digital format for learner resources, and that any cost savings associated with learner resources should be passed on to the student.

POLICY HISTORY

Original Approval Date:	November 12, 2015
Last Review Date:	September 2020
Review by Date:	August 2021