



## EXECUTIVE MIDTERM REPORT

Vice President Academic's Office

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – November 10, 2025

Vice President Academic Eli Wolters

Hello everyone! My name is Eli Wolters, and I am your Students' Association Vice President Academic for the 2025-2026 academic year! I am currently in the Legal Assistant Diploma, and plan to transfer into the Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies. I previously served on the Students' Association Council in the 24-25 academic year, and it has been wonderful being able to take bigger steps in advocating for students and their interests! My office hours aren't always the most accessible but feel free to reach out and email me!

### Goals!

#### Increase the visibility of Open Educational Resources (OERs):

This goal is to increase the knowledge of Open Educational Resources at RDP at RDP, and bring attention to it's uses, purpose, and how it helps students. OERs are course materials that have no associated cost, are free to access, can be adapted to fit the instructor or course needs, and can easily be updated whenever needed! OERs are essentially free textbooks for students, which reduces the financial burden on students. Currently, there are a handful of instructors created OERs which can be found on the RDP Library website, but there can be a significant uncompensated time commitment for instructors to adapt or create OERs. This is where my goal comes in; to create a Recognition Award, to recognize the exemplary usage of instructor usage of OERs, and to investigate creating an OER creation grant. This incentivises instructors to switch to using OERs and would result in a lower textbook cost for students overall.

#### Increase the awareness and usage of the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) indicator:

As you are likely unaware, the ZTC indicator informs students when registering for courses, that this course has no additional cost for their textbook. It's difficult to get solid data on the actual usage of the indicator vs eligible courses for this, but this indicator is incredibly useful for students and should be higher than the data suggests. Part of my work in this goal, and the previous goal, was running a Textbook Cost Survey to see the current impact of the cost of textbooks on students. I'm happy to report that our wonderful librarians worked successfully to implement this survey in October 2025, and we are waiting for the results. I am also about to finish my paper analyzing the current vs actual usage of ZTC, which is late due to the wait for accurate data, but may hold off until we have more current impact data from the survey. The original purpose for this paper was to present to the RDP Leadership to bring attention to our underutilization of ZTC, but as I have two other avenues ongoing directly related to the ZTC attribute, it will remain within the Students' Association for now. One of those avenues, is the first meeting of an ad-hoc meeting of academic council, on Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, to revise the timetable policy and procedure to include information on ZTC!

#### Increase awareness of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):



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This goal began with the implementation of our SDG Committee this summer, with myself as Chair! My main tasks are to preform another survey to understand the student's knowledge of SDGS and hopefully how they've grown, and to develop a year end plan on how the association fits within the SDGs. This work is being done mostly through our new Sustainable Development Goals Committee!

### **Sustainable Development Goals Committee**

In October 2022, RDP and the Students' Association of RDP jointly signed the Sustainable Development Goals Accord. This accord is a commitment learning institutions make to one another to do more to deliver the goals, which are 17 goals used as a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. Although we are not mandated to report our progress, last year the council formed an ad-hoc committee, and this year have made it into a standing committee! So far we have brainstormed ideas on how the Students' Association fits within the goals, and are working to simplify these into actionable items. The ultimate purpose behind this is to develop an organizational plan which adapts the SDGs to the needs of the membership. The committee is also responsible for increasing membership knowledge of the SDGs, and to survey the membership. As such, we are planning to hold information tables about SDGs and how students can be sustainable in their lives and then re-run our survey to get more information with more participants!

### **Academic Council**

Academic Council is one of the two main governing bodies of the RDP, and it's my main focus as Vice President Academic. The responsibilities of this Council include recommending academic policy and procedure, updates or additions to programs and courses, and any other matter the council deems advisable. I am currently the Chair of our Academic Council Student Caucus, the First Vice Chair of Academic Council, and recently was appointed to the Scholarly Activity Committee. I have also been selected to be on the Timetable Policy and Procedure Ad-Hoc Committee, for further edits to the Policy & Procedure. I am also happy to report that we have almost filled our student seats, seven out of eight! Students elected onto Academic Council are responsible for representing the students' voice during meetings, and that proposed items are in students' best interests. If you are interested being a student member on Academic Council, please reach out for a nomination package, and note that no experience is required!

### **Open Educational Resources (OER) Champions Group**

This wonderful group is full of staff, faculty, and students who are interested in increasing the knowledge, visibility, and usage of OERs on campus. Being in this group allows me to collaborate and advocate within the institution, and to bring the student perspective on the cost of textbooks, the visibility and knowledge of OERs and the ZTC indicator. This group is a huge help with two of my work plans; *Increasing the visibility and usage of OERs, and increasing awareness and usage of the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Indicator*. This group was instrumental in previously advocating for the ZTC indicator, and as faculty indicate to the registrar if their course is ZTC we are currently working on an information campaign targeting



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faculty, using a joint student-librarian presentation on the ZTC indicator and it's benefit to students.

**Other:**

Campus Store Advisory Committee

Trades Completion Breakfasts

Indigenous Canada Course

Conferences

Crucial Conversations Course