# Faculty Fellows Final Report – Dr. Jessie A. Key 9 October 2015

1. *Coming into the Faculty Fellows (FF) program, what were your expectations about the FF program. How did you envision the year unfolding? Did the FF program meet those expectations and match the vision you had of the year? Why or why not?*

Coming into the Faculty Fellows program, I was unsure what to expect. To my knowledge this was really a pioneer program. The broad mandates were included in the application material, but how we would accomplish those given that all the faculty fellows were busy full-time faculty from different parts of the province seemed a challenge. However, I knew from my prior experience with BCcampus, reviewing and adapting open textbooks, that their staff was excellent, enthusiastic and dedicated. I had heard great things about the other Faculty Fellows, and was looking forward to interacting and collaborating with them. I was optimistic that we would be able to work well together and participate in open-textbook related events, participate in research and lend our expertise as faculty when possible. I knew there were going to be some busy times throughout the year, particularly during the Open Textbook Summit, when we would be presenting on our experiences. Overall, my expectations were exceeded. I feel we were able to meet the mandates set out for us, and we were able to work together effectively to advance research and awareness of open textbooks in British Columbia and across Canada.

1. *Has the FF program been a worthwhile program for you to participate in? Why or why not? What advice do you have for future FF?*

I believe the Faculty Fellows program was worthwhile for me. One of the best aspects of the program was that I had the opportunity to interact with colleagues from across BC, Canada and even internationally who were passionate about teaching, and also passionate about open education. I gained experience doing collaborational research into open textbooks with the Faculty Fellows, something that as a PhD chemist I never expected to be doing. I would advise any future Faculty Fellows to just be themselves, and contribute as best they can. All the Faculty Fellows this year were exceptional individuals, and it showed in everything they did.

1. *Is there something you were hoping to do more of with the FF program that you were not able to do? Why?*

The main limiting factor of being a Faculty Fellow is time. It would have been wonderful to further promote open textbooks/open education with more outreach/advocacy activities. However, as full time faculty, time was limited by our ‘day jobs.’ It may be worthwhile to see if future Faculty Fellows could receive release time from their institutions instead of, or in addition to, the stipend.

1. *Please provide a synopsis of your activities in 3 areas: Advocacy, Research, Support.*

My activities included presenting on my experiences with open textbooks at venues ranging from a seminar at my home institution (Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC), to national conferences/meetings including the Open Textbook Summit (Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC), and College Chemistry Canada (Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS). Additionally, I contributed to blog posts, and participated in a podcast style interview with the other Faculty Fellows. My contributions to the research on the student and faculty perspectives of open textbooks includes contributing to the experimental design, reviewing and designing research survey questions and survey data analysis/interpretation. I have provided support to colleagues who have had questions regarding the adoption and use of open textbooks, both at VIU and also nationally. In particular, I have received significant inquiry from colleagues in the field of Chemistry who attended the Open Textbook Summit or College Chemistry Canada.

1. *How much time did you devote to FF? Did we ask too much, not enough of your time?*

It is hard to put down a solid number on how much time was devoted to being a Faculty Fellow, as it varied significantly throughout the year. At times entire days were spent attending and presenting at the national conferences/meetings. Other times were less busy, and the time commitment was as low as approximately one hour/week.

1. *Was $10k adequate compensation for your work?*

I believe the $10k it was fair compensation. I don’t think any of the Faculty Fellows took on this role solely for the compensation – we did it because we care about education.

1. *What resources did you need to do your FF that you did not have?*

I think we had all the resources we needed to meet our mandates, and I think we did accomplish those. When we needed anything, I found we could ask the other Faculty Fellows or the staff at BCcampus and get a prompt response with the resources needed.

1. *What kind of orientation do you think is needed for future incoming FF?*

I think a face-to-face meeting is important, as we had at the start our term as faculty fellows. It was good to get additional details on the objectives of the program and actually meet everyone in person.

*9. Other comments?*

I think one challenge inherent in the design on the Faculty Fellows, is that we are all located in different cities of the province, and have varying schedules and availabilities. Although I think we worked well together and succeeded in our term as Faculty Fellows, there were times where it would have been great to interact more face-to-face. Also, I think it would have been great to try to reach out more to the rural areas of the province, as I think those are the areas that could benefit most from additional knowledge about open educational resources - for instance some of the Universities/Colleges in northern or central BC.

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