

Textbook Affordability

BGSU Initiatives – Faculty Senate
November 1, 2016

House Bill 65 Section 369.600

“The 5% Challenge”

- Required Board of Trustees to develop and implement a plan to reduce student cost of an undergraduate degree by 5% (2015)
- BGSU response included textbook affordability
 - University Libraries purchase of textbooks for reserve
 - Educating students/faculty about options available
 - Pilot workshop for faculty about alternative textbook/course materials options

Textbook Adoption @ BGSU

- Top 20 High Enrolled, First Year Courses, Fall 2016 Snapshot
 - Data on number of unique texts per course and section
- Summary of Adopted Titles/Class Section – Spring 2016
 - Data on timing of textbook ordering and impact on costs to students
 - Higher Education Opportunity Act (2008) mandates that students have access to the true cost of a class prior to registering
 - Early adoption provides the most options for students—at point of purchase and sell-back
 - Primary sourcing opportunity is directly related to national marketplace availability of text options
- [BGSUChoose](#) – textbook price comparison tool

Features of BGSUChoose

- Price comparison tool sponsored by bookstore helps students find affordable options
- Displays textbook requirements, bookstore options & prices, comparison prices for a dozen Internet sources (Amazon, Chegg, etc.)
- Links to books available on OhioLINK
- Creates shopping carts by company & facilitates student checkout
- Data analytics allow bookstore to selectively reduce prices

BGSU Textbook Services

- Promotes student textbook affordability in many ways
- Continuously sourcing used, rental, and digital textbooks in the national marketplace
- The earlier an adoption is received, the greater the cost can be reduced
- Buyback and rental services reduce student NET textbook cost
- Adoptions received *before* finals will typically DOUBLE the amount a student gets at buyback

University Libraries Initiatives

- Purchase of Textbooks to place on reserve – 42 titles @ \$5,000
 - High enrolled classes/High cost textbooks
 - Use has been good: AY 15-16 – 1568 uses
 - Can provide data on texts purchased, use by semester, and overall
- Faculty desk copies – can be placed on reserve
- Use of University Libraries and OhioLINK purchased content as course materials
- OhioLINK efforts to work with the State of Ohio and publishers on textbook deals and deep discounts with publishers

University Libraries Initiatives

- LibGuides for faculty and students – created by UL faculty
 - [Textbook Affordability: A Guide for Faculty](#)
 - [Finding Textbooks: A Guide for Students](#)
- The University Libraries will join the Open Textbook Network and work with OhioLINK, IUC, and BGSU to identify quality open educational resources (OER) and OER consortia.
- UL faculty are testing Canvas Commons as a repository for educators to find, import, and share resources. Go live – Spring 2017.
 - A digital library full of educational content, Commons allows Canvas users to share learning resources with other users as well as import learning resources into a Canvas course.

IUC Taskforce on Textbook Affordability

OER Working Group

- Responding to action step 6c (textbook affordability) from the Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency
- Submitted recommendations to IUC Provosts in March 2016 to form a statewide OER group under the umbrella of OhioLINK to:
 - Coordinate statewide OER efforts
 - Select and recommend to ODHE the purchase of digital tools for creation of OER
 - Negotiate better prices for state-wide purchases of textbooks from publishers and/or content providers of high quality open educational resources

Center for Faculty Excellence

Initiatives

- Pilot program – Spring Semester 2017
 - Mini-grants to utilize Open Educational Resources (OER)
 - To develop/create course content, supplemental material and assessments
 - Evaluate faculty and student experiences using alternatives to standard textbooks
- Connect with Canvas Commons project by University Libraries

Concluding Comments

- We welcome ongoing conversation to develop textbook affordability options and solutions.
- Information sharing with students and their families, faculty, and staff is key to providing options and improving textbook affordability.
- Early adoption impacts pricing options available for students.
- High enrollment courses using the same texts impacts affordability.
- University Libraries and OhioLINK resources are options for developing course materials.
- Open Educational Resources are options for developing course materials.
- Thank You!