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!