10-23-2015

It Takes a University: OER and the PSU Reduce Student Costs Initiative

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It Takes a University:

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October 23, 2015
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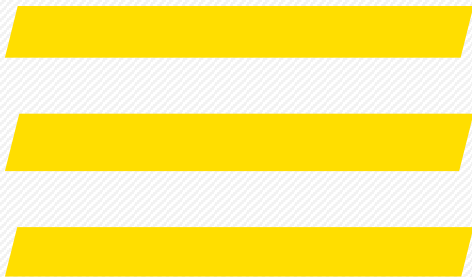
OER and the PSU Reduce Student Costs Initiative.

Student Affordability Context.

- November 2014, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) surveyed approximately 9,000 students from Oregon universities and community colleges regarding their use of textbooks. Approximately **39% of the students** who participated were from PSU.

- One-third of the students do not acquire their books before the first day of class.

- One-third need their financial aid distribution to pay for their books.

- Almost half of the students reported paying over $250 per term for their books.

The Task Force.

Reducing Student Costs: A Report on Textbooks and Course Materials

FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Task Force Charge Questions.

1. What role can open and low-cost textbooks play in reducing student costs?

2. What textbook adoption strategies and policies can be used to reduce student costs?

3. How can access to more open and low-cost textbooks and course materials for PSU students be facilitated? What are the technical and policy barriers?

4. How can pilot projects or projects already in place at PSU (such as the PDX Open project)contribute to this initiative?

5. In what ways might PSU collaborate with external partners including other Oregon universities?

Provost as Champion.

Sona Andrews' Blog
Sona Karentz Andrews is Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Portland State University

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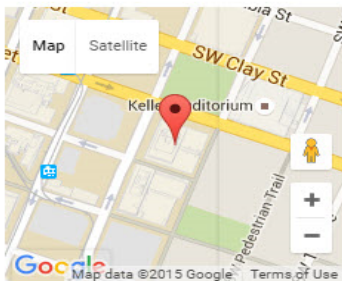
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Here is How PSU Can Reduce Textbook Costs

Posted on March 31, 2015 by Sona Andrews

PSU is making college more affordable for students by reducing the cost of textbooks and course materials. A comprehensive report prepared by the PSU Task Force outlines **46 strategies** that the University can undertake.

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http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/oaa_reports/1/

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http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/oaa_reports/2/

Recommendations & Strategies.
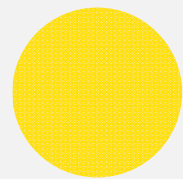
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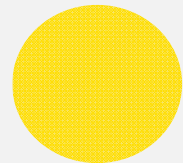
- 46 Strategies

Implementation Plan.

- Academic Leadership
- Student Government
- Faculty
- Library
- OAI (Office of Academic Innovation)
- Legal Counsel
- PSU Foundation

Recommendation 3: Seek external funding to reduce student costs for textbooks and course materials.

Recommended Strategies:

- Develop grant proposals to pursue outside funding to support course re-designs utilizing OERs.

- The Working Group should collaborate with the OAI, the Library, faculty, and ASPSU to develop proposals to submit through Sponsored Projects Administration.

- Develop proposals for donor and foundation support for textbook and course materials cost reduction in conjunction with the PSU Foundation.

- The Library Development officer and the Senior Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations should take the lead in working with the Library and other interested groups, including students, in developing proposals.

"With the success of these **first five textbooks** and the support of generous donors, Robin and Robert Holmes, the PSU Library is pleased to announce [a new round of funding](#) for the development of open access textbooks by PSU faculty."

Recommendation 4: Support faculty in utilizing and producing OERs.

Recommended Strategies:

- Coordinate and align reTHINK PSU initiatives, Flexible Degree Concepts, the Online Learning Work Plan, and Academic Program Prioritization with efforts to reduce student textbooks and course materials costs.

- Develop incentives for faculty to expand the use and creation of OERs and open textbooks.

- As flexible degrees and courses are developed, funding from online fees should be used to develop OERs and open textbooks as appropriate.

- Course design and redesigns should consider the cost of textbooks and course materials as well as using OERs.

Recommendation 7: Build on the pilot PDX Open reTHINK project to enable faculty to author and publish readily accessible textbooks.

Recommended Strategies:

- Use PDXScholar to provide PSU faculty a stable, easily accessible and discoverable, permanent, online space via which to publish open textbooks for PSU courses.

- Expand open access textbook publishing using lessons learned from pilot projects to provide additional services. More than 200 students enrolled in these pilot courses and saved from $100 to $141 in one term for a total savings of $23,805.

Open Textbook/OER Strategies

01.

Create

02.

Adopt/Adapt

03.

Course Design/Redesign

Create: PSU Library Open Access Textbooks.

- 5 open textbooks in first round of publication

- 5 additional textbooks will be completed in January 2016

- In their first term of use, the initial 5 textbooks saved students more than $23,800.

- http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/pdxopen/

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OPEN ACCESS TEXTBOOKS

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Description

Our goal in this set of lecture notes is to provide students with a strong foundation in mathematical analysis. Such a foundation is crucial for future study of deeper topics of analysis. Students should be familiar with most of the concepts presented here after completing the calculus sequence. However, these concepts will be reinforced through rigorous proofs.

PDXScholar Portland State University Library

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Recommendation 8: Pilot a course or group of courses that do not require the purchase of textbooks and course materials by individual students.

Recommended Strategies:

- Investigate potential outside partners for supporting OER-based courses.

- Select pilot courses through a competitive proposal process implemented by the OAI.

- Investigate a textbook-free degree option.

- Encourage the adoption of [Open Textbook Library](#) textbooks by hosting faculty and staff workshops offered by the [Open Textbook Network](#).

Open Textbook Network.

OpenTextbookNetwork
@open_textbooks

Alliance of #highered institutions working to improve access, affordability and academic success through the use of open textbooks

· https://www.facebook.com/opentextbooknetwork

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A Computational Introduction to Number Theory and Algebra

Victor Shoup, New York University

This introductory book emphasizes algorithms and applications, such as cryptography and error correcting codes, and is accessible to a broad audience. The presentation alternates between theory and applications in order to motivate and illustrate the mathematics. The mathematical coverage includes the basics of number theory, abstract algebra and discrete probability theory.

(0 reviews)
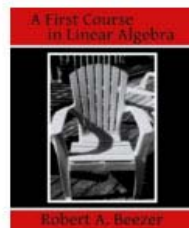
A First Course in Linear Algebra

Robert A. Beezer, University of Puget Sound

A First Course in Linear Algebra is an introductory textbook aimed at college-level sophomores and juniors. Typically students will have taken calculus, but it is not a prerequisite. The book begins with systems of linear equations, then covers matrix algebra, before taking up finite-dimensional vector spaces in full generality. The final chapter covers matrix representations of linear transformations, through diagonalization, change of basis and Jordan canonical form. Determinants and eigenvalues are covered along the way.

★★★★★

(2 reviews)

Design: Flexible Degrees

- **Does this project include ways to reduce individual student costs for textbooks and course materials?**

PSU Flexible Degrees

Supports the creation of flexible pathways that make effective use of technology to offer flexible, high quality and affordable education for undergraduate students who have attended college without receiving college credentials and graduate students who seek new opportunities.

Recommendation 5: Pursue collaborations for the development of open textbooks and OERs.

Recommended Strategies:

- Propose and champion collaborative development of OERs through the PSU Library's participation in the Orbis Cascade Alliance's Content Creation and Dissemination Team. The Library and its members on the Content Creation and Dissemination Team should take the lead in this initiative.

- Pursue partnerships with the University of Oregon and Oregon State University Libraries in the development of open textbooks.

Recommended Strategies (continued):

- Approach Oregon State University and University of Oregon Libraries to start a collaborative OER project. Oregon State University has already developed the Open Access Etextbooks Program which, along with PSU's PDX Open, provides a starting point.

- Investigate partnerships with other interested Oregon universities and colleges in developing and using OERs. In particular, the ongoing work of the Oregon Community Colleges in developing and using OERs may provide opportunities for collaboration.

- Work with the Oregon Interinstitutional Faculty Senate on textbook affordability issues in conjunction with their work with HECC.

<u>Recommendation 6</u>: Enhance professional development and educational opportunities for faculty to encourage the use of library and OER resources.

Recommended Strategies:

- The OAI and the Library should collaborate to create and offer workshops and/or programs that focus on utilizing OERs in the classroom.

- Make new faculty aware of these opportunities at their orientations.

Faculty Awareness.

"Reducing the costs of university education is a priority for PSU. One strategy to advance this priority is reducing the costs that students pay to obtain textbooks and related learning materials for their courses."

"The Office of Academic Affairs, the Deans, and the Library invite all PSU faculty to join in our effort to reduce costs and barriers to student learning."

Dean Stephen Percy, College of Urban and Public Affairs

Recommendation 11: Target high enrollment classes to maximize impact of initiatives .

Recommended Strategies:

- Analyze the 25 PSU largest enrollment undergraduate courses as possible targets and high priority for the development of OERs.

Recommendation 13: Revise the Portland State University copyright and intellectual property guidelines and policies.

Recommended Strategies:

- Form a working group including representation from University Counsel, the Library, the Faculty Senate, the OAI, the OIT, and students to review and revise copyright policies and guidelines. This should be guided and informed by the purpose of copyright law.

- Working with University Counsel, University Administration, the Library, and Faculty Senate, create a copyright transfer agreement for OER materials from the University to the faculty and students who create the OERs.

- Develop and implement policies regarding the use of textbooks and other course materials (both for-profit and open access) authored by PSU faculty.

Copyright Task Force.

Particular OER concerns in the charge:

- copyright ownership and transfer of Open Educational Resources, including open textbooks, created by PSU faculty, staff, and students

- policies regarding the use of textbooks and other course materials authored by PSU faculty

- conditions under which the University has ownership in newly-created work

Lessons Learned.

- Identify your campus "champions"

- Develop multiple approaches

- Involve the entire university

- Create an implementation plan

- Take advantage of existing initiatives

- Be opportunistic

Thanks!.

QUESTION
&ANSWER

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