BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Innovation and Online Committee
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Open Educational Resources (OER) Initiatives

Below is a sampling of OER initiatives that are being implemented in the State University System to promote educational efficiencies and to reduce the instructional costs for students.

Florida A & M University

Florida A&M University is in the process of establishing a committee to evaluate the use of Open Educational Resources (OERs) and eText. The Office of Academic Affairs is gathering information to identify the feasibility of utilizing OERs and eText in certain academic disciplines. Additionally, models and best practices are being evaluated that other institutions in the State University System are employing regarding incentivizing faculty to engage in the use of OER and eText initiatives to help reduce textbook costs for affordability and to improve student success.

Florida Atlantic University

FAU is using a multiple-prong approach to reduce the costs of textbooks to students. By using several strategies, FAU should be able to rapidly impact the cost of the textbooks. Below is a description of those strategies.

First Day - The goal of First Day is to ensure students access to textbooks on the first day of class. To achieve this goal, FAU is launching two pilot studies. In Spring 2019, a limited number of faculty will be able to guide students to purchase textbooks through Follett's Lumen Learning platform. The expectation is that textbooks purchased by students through the platform will be lower than purchasing directly from the textbook company. Through Lumen, FAU joins several institutions across the United States in leveraging group purchasing to reduce the overall costs to students. The second pilot is with the OER platform Engage through the Unizin agreement Summer 2019. The platform will provide ready access to OER and easy to use OER search tools to faculty and integration into Canvas courses.

ACT: Affordable Curriculum Today - The goal of this program is three-fold:
> (a) adoption encourages faculty to use library support services to search for OER and library materials to replace or supplement textbook material to reduce the cost of textbooks for students,
> (b) adaption provides faculty the resources to modify current textbooks or to replace textbook content with FAU faculty created material to reduce the cost of textbooks,
> (c) authorship incentivizes faculty to publish eTexts through FAU rather than a textbook company.

Florida Gulf Coast University

FGCU subject-specialist librarians are providing OER education and resources for FGCU faculty. In addition to personal consultations, a research guide is available (http://fgcu.libguides.com/OER) to introduce faculty to OER. The guide describes the foundations of OER and provides the user with resources such as the OER Metafinder Search Tool developed by George Mason University and links to open textbook resources and open access learning objects.

At the request of teaching faculty, librarians have purchased ebooks that serve as course textbooks; while these are not OER materials, the cost is borne by the University rather than by individual students. The second tab of the OER Research Guide provides an example of such ebooks. Subject and course-specific research guides are now included in all Canvas courses, connecting students and faculty with subject librarians and eresources in the Library's collection.

Finally, with the recent addition of EBSCO's Curriculum Builder, teaching faculty have the ability to build reading lists in Canvas from online databases.

Florida International University

FIU is committed to student success by reducing the costs of instructional material while still presenting high-quality content. Our current OER/eText initiatives include:

Affordability Counts
The Affordability Counts initiative encourages faculty to actively make conscientious course material selections when developing their courses. Faculty who reduce the total out-of-pocket expense of course materials for students to $20 or less per credit are awarded the Affordability Counts medallion. Since the inception of the program, over 270 courses have been awarded the Affordability Counts medallion and this resulted in savings for students in excess of $750,000. FIU Online is actively modifying our online presence to allow for other SUS members to implement the Affordability Counts initiative at their institution.

Affordability Counts Day
FIU hosts professional development workshops for faculty who are interested in lowering the cost of course materials. This annual event takes place every year during National Open Access Week. By attending, faculty receive assistance in identifying resources to lower the cost of course materials by adopting free, low-cost or open educational resources. Affordability Counts Day is a collaborative effort between FIU Online, the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and FIU Libraries.

OpenStax Partnership
FIU was selected as one of 11 institutions in the country to be part of the 2017-2018 OpenStax Institutional Partnership Program. FIU began the program in July 2017 and through the growth of OER adoptions, over 11,500 students have benefitted from taking a course with OER materials.

FIU is actively participating in OpenStax initiatives and in promoting OER adoption at our institution through our development process, the FIU Online conference, and other direct tactics.

Complete Florida Grant
The Complete Florida grant awarded to FIU will be used to strategically target OER adoption in undergraduate core curriculum courses in an effort to support student success during the critical first two years. Faculty who adopt and/or modify existing OER materials specifically for a core course will receive a development incentive provided through the Complete Florida grant.

Florida State University

FSU and the FSU Libraries are developing a variety of initiatives in support of OER. Below is a quick summary of recent activity and the impact of those activities which are expected to save students in excess of $1M per year.

FSU Libraries are promoting the third round of our Alternative Textbook Grants (ATG) program this fall (https://www.lib.fsu.edu/alttextbooks). Due to the continued success of this program, our total funding allocation has increased from $15,000 in FY 2017-18 to $28,000 in FY 2018-19, thanks in large part to a generous contribution of $18,000 from FSU's Office of International Programs. The total projected savings to students generated by the 21 $1,000 grants awarded to date are expected reach $269,580 by summer 2019 (based on the new print cost of the required course materials replaced by each of the 21 grantees).

Remarkable savings have been achieved by instructors adopting OERs. For example, curriculum committees in FSU's Chemistry and Physics departments have adopted OpenStax textbooks for CHM 1045, CHM 1046, PHY 2053, and PHY 2054 - adoptions which could save FSU students up to $1,049,214.25 annually in these courses alone (again, based on the new print cost of previously required course materials).

The FSU Libraries are currently recruiting faculty and campus partners to attend on-campus Open Textbook Network (OTN) workshops on October 25th, as part of FSU's institutional membership with the OTN.

University of Central Florida

The University of Central Florida employs a variety of strategies to help reduce the cost of course materials.

Since 2015, a working group composed of instructional designers and librarians has worked with other campus partners to help 46 unique teaching faculty transition from traditional textbooks to no/low-cost alternatives. These faculty have taught 115 course sections, in turn saving over 6,200 students more than $650,000 (see table below to get a sense of the various approaches).

This fall semester a print textbook reserve collection was added to the library, with an emphasis on high DFW, high enrollment GEP classes. This collection supports over 13,000 students enrolled in 432 sections, with initial funding provided by the library. A textbook affordability / student success librarian position recently was funded out of the Provost's Office. This illustrates that the topic is of interest to administrators and that they think it has the potential to positively impact student success, performance funding, and institutional goals.

<u>Summer 2016-Summer 2018; by type of adoption</u>

	Unique faculty	Sections	Students	Potential Savings
Create an OER	3	9	454	$ 31,780
Replace with a library ebook	36	75	2,812	263,551
Adopt existing OER	7	31	2,952	361,779
TOTAL	**46**	**115**	**6,218**	**$657,110**

Our partnership between the Center for Distributed Learning, the Library, and the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning has been especially fruitful. These programs include faculty development institutes and conferences, Teaching and Learning Days, and the GEP "refresh" initiative. Recently, we presented the topic to the Faculty Senate, which assigned it to a steering committee. We also met with the Student Government Association, which is considering allocating funding to support the print textbook reserve collection.

We were recently awarded a Complete Florida grant. Select instructional designers and librarians are working with six faculty as they create OERs for five courses. The OERs will be shared in the Orange Grove repository in 2019.

Finally, instructional designers are working with individual faculty to explore the potential of Unizin Engage and Pressbooks to support students on a larger scale.

<u>University of Florida</u>

<u>Affordable UF</u>

The University of Florida's Office of Faculty Development & Teaching Excellence (FDTE) has collaborated with organizations on-campus, as well as at other peer institutions on three initiatives. First, FDTE has partnered with the UF Libraries to create the *Affordable UF* badge initiative. The program, modeled after FIU's Affordability Counts, awards badges to courses using materials that cost $20 or less per credit hour. The Affordable UF website displays 900+ courses that have earned the badge during the current fall 2018 term. These courses display the Affordable UF icon within the student-facing textbook adoption information.

<u>OER Integrated with Mathematics Problems</u>
UF has implemented an open source homework system developed by [Ohio State University](#) that has saved 3,500 students approximately $220,000 during fall of 2018 alone. The tool incorporates OER with interactive problem solving and replaces the Cengage product WebAssign in two calculus sequence courses: MAC 2311 and MAC2312 as well as MAC1140 – Precalculus Algebra and MAC1105 College Algebra. UF hosted a Ximera workshop open to all Florida and Unizin schools at the end of October, 2018. Future expansion of Ximera includes the increased support for individual student learning needs.

<u>Volume Pricing for eTextbooks</u>
The University of Florida has developed UF All Access in partnership with our bookstore Follett to provide volume pricing for eTextbooks. From summer 2014 through summer 2018, UF All Access has saved students $3,848,986.60 versus the full publisher pricing for the etext and homework systems. During the 2018 calendar year, 416 courses have participated in the program.

University of North Florida

UNF launched an initiative in AY18 to support and expand the use of OER materials. The **[OER Initiative](#)** is a joint project of the [Center for Instruction and Research Technology (CIRT)](#) and the [Thomas G. Carpenter Library](#) that seeks to lower college costs for UNF students by encouraging faculty to adopt quality open resources in their courses. An OER hub was developed in Canvas to provide faculty with course redesign support as well as resources for locating and reviewing OER content, and faculty received direct support from instructional designers and librarians.

In the first year, 16 faculty proposals to redesign courses using OER were accepted. To qualify for the initiative, all required textbooks must be available at no cost and the cost of any other instructional materials may not exceed $25. Those 16 courses represent potential annual student cost savings of approximately $386,324. **The OER courses from this initiative taught in Summer and Fall 2018 have already saved UNF students $52,450.** Students report that they like digital access to text materials.

A student in an Electrical Engineering course that was converted to OER materials commented:

> "Textbooks are far too expensive to be worth the hundreds of dollars that we are charged and I hope that some of my other classes take this approach to save us students"

<u>Next Steps</u>
For AY19, up to 20 additional course proposals will be accepted and supported. The initiative will also seek to engage with an academic program or department that seeks to redesign all of its courses to use OER materials.

University of South Florida

The University of South Florida Libraries has been a long-time supporter of open educational resources (OER) with various initiatives conducted throughout recent years:

USF Scholar Commons
The USF Libraries host 12 open access textbooks on our institutional repository, Scholar Commons, where there are over 701,251 downloads of this content. Of those open access textbooks, 7 were authored by USF faculty.

Intellus Learning
The USF Libraries submitted a proposal and received a USF Student Technology Fee reward to acquire Intellus Learning, a tool that will be integrated into Canvas and is designed to help faculty adopt open access content and library content in lieu of expensive textbooks.

USF Libraries and Innovative Education's Open Access Publishing Partnership
Dr. Jennifer Schneider, USF faculty member, worked with Innovative Education and the USF Libraries in Spring 2016 to publish the open access textbook, *The Inside, Outside, and Upside Downs of Children's Literature: From Poets and Pop-ups to Princesses and Porridge*. The USF Libraries and Innovative Education continue to partner with College of Engineering Professor Dr. Kingsley Reeves to facilitate the publication of an open access textbook for engineering students.

Textbook Affordability Days Event
The USF Libraries held a two-day textbook affordability event featuring Open Textbook Network workshops for faculty, faculty adoption support staff, and campus leadership on adopting open access textbooks. Overall 68% of faculty who attended the workshops are now adopting or are considering adopting an open access textbook. The Chemistry Department at the Tampa Campus attended the event and has since adopted open access textbooks for their CHM2045 and CHM2046 general chemistry courses, replacing the previously required $322.50 textbook.

Open Textbook Network (OTN)
USF is a member of OTN, along with over 379 colleges and universities. The focus of OTN is developing expertise on campuses and encouraging faculty to adopt, adapt, and create OER while protecting academic freedom. In January of 2018, OTN trainers conducted workshops for USF faculty, department chairs, and deans to raise awareness of the value of open access content.

Institution-Wide Analysis
A comprehensive analysis of all undergraduate USF textbook adoptions (all programs, all campuses) has just concluded phase one. Phase two will focus on recommendations for OER adoption options.

Florida Virtual Campus - Complete Florida

Because textbook costs affect student success and graduation rates, Complete Florida issued a challenge of up to $60,000 to Complete Florida partner institutions to encourage the use of Open Educational Resources (OER). The challenge is for adoption, adaption, and creation of OER for Complete Florida Programs or general education courses. These awards will identify and develop needed OER resources in high-demand courses, support the development of Z-degree programs, and provide OER faculty training. Evaluation data from the Complete Florida OER challenge awards will identify additional target courses that will result in the greatest cost savings for students. Complete Florida partner institutions have set goals to create, adapt, or adopt OER materials for more than 75 courses by June of 2019.