State University System
Education and General
2018-2019 Legislative Budget Request
Form I

University(s):	University of Florida
Issue Title:	Open Access Textbooks and Resources: Increasing Usage, Reducing Costs
Recurring Funds Requested:	$1,498,280
Non-Recurring Funds Requested:	$160,640
Total Funds Requested:	$1,658,920
Please check the issue type below:	
Shared Services/System-Wide Issue for Fiscal Year 2018-2019	☒
Unique Issue for Fiscal Year 2018-2019	☐

I. Description –

OER/eText Catalog Tool and Repository Tool Implementation, Support & Maintenance

1. 2025 Strategic Plan for Online Education
Tactic 2.1.1: Determine and promote methods to increase the use of open-access textbooks and education resources to reduce costs to students.

Tactic 2.1.2: Reduce the costs of eTextbooks for students through mechanisms that could include negotiating lower pricing with vendors and providing an enhanced repository for educational materials.

This requests funding for the implementation and ongoing support of a state-level OER(Open Educational Resources)/eText Catalog Tool and an OER Repository Tool. Support for an awareness campaign coupled with training and support for using the tools is included with this request.

OER/eText Catalog Tool: Aggregates lower-cost eTexts and no-cost Open Educational Resources (OER) enabling faculty to identify and select the most appropriate course material at the lowest price.

- This is a new service/program.
- Volume discounts will be negotiated with publishers for eTexts and homework systems to be made available across the SUS and FCS.
- OER material will be listed in the same catalog to support the selection of course-appropriate material at the lowest price available.
- OER material initially offered through the (separate) *OER Repository* may be listed in the catalog after the completion of appropriate vetting.
- Upon selection of the lower-cost resource, the information will be sent to the appropriate institution for inclusion in the Textbook Adoption system, Publisher, Bookstore or other partner (as appropriate) for eText/OER platform setup within the course management system.
- Upon the individual student's choice of the "opt-in" for the lower-cost material, billing information would be sent to the institution's Bursar to be charged to the student account (this would occur after the drop/add period is over).
- Students opting in would have access to the content on the first day of classes.

OER Repository Tool: Provides a mechanism for faculty to share course content in a manner that can be easily searched and incorporated by other faculty for instructional use.

- This is a new service/program.
- The repository will support the sharing of a single learning object such as a video or activity as well as an entire course as outlined in Tactic 1.2.2 with regard to master courses.
- The repository will support a review process to assist with the discovery process as well as to identify materials for inclusion in the *OER/eText Catalog Tool*.

Affordability awareness, training and support will be facilitated by institutional eText/OER Coordinators who work with faculty using the provided tools. Coordinators will identify faculty Champions who will share strategies and resources with peers in their own institutions and throughout the state.

Implementation and Support Services: The proposed salary funding provides the initial set up of tools as well as assistance with integration and promotion at the individual institutions.

- Custom programming to support state and institution needs.
- Coordination and management of usage data.
- Documentation and training to support usage and best practices.
- Coordination with institution bookstores, textbook adoption systems and bursar offices.
- Coordination with state and institution library personnel and services.
- Content integration and technical support.
- PR and marketing coordination and support.

2. Service/Project Impact

The Florida Virtual Campus *2016 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey* found that the cost of textbooks has a negative impact on student access, success and completion, with student reporting that they:

- Occasionally or frequently take fewer courses (47.5%)
- Do not register for a course (45.5%)
- Drop a course (26.1%),
- Or withdraw from courses (20.7%)

Used textbooks and textbook rental can provide some savings, but when access to online homework tools and media resources is required, an eText or OER solution is an important strategy for reducing costs. Benefits include:

- First-day access to course material to reduce the potential for students to fall behind and need to drop the course.
- Collaboration and interactive elements to enhance the learning experience.
- Support for mobile devices makes learning available anytime, anywhere.

II. Return on Investment –

UF's Fall 2016 IncludEd program provided student savings of an average of 43% off print prices across 79 freshman level courses. Savings made available to the 26,570 SUS FTIC freshman would result in:

- $1,251,117 in savings for one class
- $2,502,234 in savings for two classes.

- $5,004,468 in savings for four classes.

- An individual student taking four courses with eText options would save $188.
- Savings increase significantly when the 30 Florida College System schools are included.

Easy discovery and support for integration of no-cost* OER has the potential to provide even greater cost savings to students. Through small incentives to faculty, the first round of six courses in FSU's *Alternative Textbook Grants* program is expected to save FSU students over $41,000 in textbook costs by Summer 2018.

*There may be licensing costs depending upon the selected eText or homework delivery platform. These costs typically range from $3.00 - $20.00 per course.

III. Facilities *(If this issue requires an expansion or construction of a facility, please complete the following table.):*

	Facility Project Title	Fiscal Year	Amount Requested	Priority Number
1.	N/A			
2.				