SUBJECT: Open Access Textbooks and Resources: Reducing Costs

Tactic: Affordability 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 material.

Background:

The rising cost of materials seems to be a barrier to successful degree completion. The 2016 Florida Student Textbook Survey (Florida Virtual Campus) found that, due to the cost of required materials, 66.6% of students did not buy a required textbook; 47.6% occasionally or frequently take fewer courses; 26.1% drop a course; and 20.7% withdraw from a course.

Recommendations:

1) Recommend adoption of eTexts which can be made available more cheaply than print texts.

2) Negotiate volume pricing through the state system or other consortiums such as Unizin (through its Engage eText platform.)

3) Aggregate eText and OER options into one catalog tool as described in tactic 2.1.1.

4) Leverage and expand library resources to support appropriate use-cases.

5) Implement PR and marketing efforts to support eText adoption. These should be combined with OER strategies listed in tactic 2.1.1.

Supporting Documentation Included: Implementation of Recommendations

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