Affordable Learning!

Tips & Opportunities
Textbook Affordability
Annual Percent Changes From 1978 for Educational Books, Medical Care, New Home Prices, and the CPI through 2014

Sources: BLS, Census Bureau

- CPI: Educational Books (College textbooks)
- CPI: Medical Care
- New Home Prices
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Yearly increases:
- CPI: Educational Books (College textbooks): 945%
- CPI: Medical Care: 604%
- New Home Prices: 408%
- Consumer Price Index (CPI): 262%
Why are textbooks expensive?

- Flaw in publishing industry
- Not a “normal” market
- No checks/balances
- 5 textbook companies control most of market
But it’s not a problem at Miami, right?

- “ASG discusses proposed textbook price limits, prepares bill” (2/27/17)
- "Price hike has students 'booking it' out the door" (2/7/14)
- “Textbook law fails to bind publishers” (9/10/13)
- “Textbook policies aim to help, though not strictly enforced” (9/10/13)
- “King puts high-demand textbooks on reserve” (8/20/12)
- “MU slow to comply with textbook law” (10/27/11)
- “Miami must act quickly to better comply with textbook law” (10/27/11)
- “Ohio arranges for free textbooks” (3/28/11)
- “Rising textbook costs shine light on affordability crisis” (3/25/08)
Addressing Textbook Affordability

- Faculty learning communities
- ASG resolution
- Textbooks on reserve
- Open Textbook Network
- Open Educational Resources (OER)
Our Goals

● Significantly lower the cost of textbooks to enrolled students in a specific course
● Maintain or improve student learning outcomes and satisfaction with the required materials
● Contribute to the growing body of affordable materials or Open Educational Resources (OER) available to the global higher education community
Miami University OER/AL Grant Programs
OER-Explore

- 2 hours workshop, usually held in the fall and spring of each year
- Learn more about OER and AL initiatives and resources
- Provide an online review of an OER
- $200 stipend
OER-Adapt & Adopt

- 3 semester-3 year commitment
- Replace your current commercial textbook with an OER
- If needed, adopt the resource to your specific needs
- $1000 in professional development funds granted for the completion of each phase of the grant
- Phase 1, analyze student learning with commercial text
- Phase 2, Introduce use of OER and analyze student learning
- Phase 3, plan for long-term use and continue to analyze learning.
OER-Create

- Launching in 2018
- Award of funds for the creation of an OER to be used for course instruction
Affordability Initiative-Course Pack Consultation Service

- For faculty using readings-based course packs
- Reading list will be analyzed to determine what works can be made accessible to students freely under US copyright law
- $200 in professional development funds for going through the consultation service
Affordability Initiative-Alternate Textbook Program

- Replacing a commercial textbook with works that can be made freely available to students under US copyright law
- May also include replacing current course materials with alternate, low-cost options
- Grant funding: TBD
Assessment via SGID

Why SGID?
● Valuable qualitative information
● Allows for follow-up questions
● Easy to focus on OER quality and Learning
● Low stakes method
● High ‘return’ rate
● Student familiarity
Learn More

MU OER/AL Grant Webpage

http://miamioh.edu/academic-affairs/teaching/open-edu-res/index.html
Questions?

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