TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE

Friday, November 30, 2018
1:30 p.m.
Milner Library, 311

Agenda

Members Attending: Anne Shelley, Danielle Miller-Schuster, Crystal Nourie, James Palmer, Morgan Anderson, Do-Yong Park, Laurence Bender

Members Absent: Michaelene Cox, Michael Rubio

Call to Order: November 30, 2018 at 1:32 pm

Action Items:
- Review and approve minutes from 10/17/2018 TAC meeting

Information Items:
1. All TAC minutes, agendas, and other documentation I could find are now in OneDrive. I have shared the folder with you and you should have full edit rights. Let me know if you have trouble accessing the folder.
2. I will be adding more information, hopefully this week, about affordable course materials on an online library guide - https://guides.library.illinoisstate.edu/affordability
3. I have asked Crystal and Jess about updating this page - http://registrar.illinoisstate.edu/faculty_staff/textbook_affordability_committee/
   a. Possibility of putting TAC on the A-Z list on ISU’s website
   b. We will decide where it should be placed once we know the content that is going to be present on it

Discussion Items:

Schedule spring 2019 TAC meetings –
- January 24th at 1-2 pm in Milner 311
- February 28th at 1-2 pm in Milner 311
- March 21st at 1-2 pm in Milner 311
- May 2nd at 1-2 pm in Milner 311

Academic Senate Report
- I’m attending the Senate meeting on 12/5, have been asked to address the following things in bold. What do you think about these bullet points? Anything missing? What input do we want from the Senate?
  “comment on the progress the TAC has made overall since the committee was created”
  - Discussed and submitted revisions re: the committee’s membership composition and charge
  - Developed strategic plan for textbook affordability on campus – action plan for the next year
     ▪ This should be focused on, it is what we have been discussing at most of our meetings and we have put a lot of work into it
     ▪ Not sure if the academic senate will be aware of what’s on it or if they have read it
Library designee gave workshop on affordable course materials in summer 2018, 10 faculty attended

SGA explored possibility of offering faculty incentive grants to adopt/create OER

“what the committee has discovered or helped improve”

Affordability initiatives at other universities vary in approach and success

Guest speaker from bookstore – relevant information and they want to be a partner

Open educational resources are an option

Not all faculty are aware of affordable options (e-books licensed by the library)

Members circulate news items among committee related to textbook affordability, including OERs and inclusive access deals from publishers

Their big push is that the faculty isn’t aware of the resources available

“where they think they need to go”

Use strategic plan as a guide

Another effort to help define affordability problem on campus (surveys)

Create web presence with information about affordable course materials

Identify and reach out to campus units who can assist

“It might also be a great time for you to ask for input from the Senators”

Present the strategic plan

Here’s what TAC can work on, asking for strategies on moving forward with other points

The points on the strategic plan are suggestions for the senate – the asterisks are what we are focusing on

The library will be a main focus for making these goals happen

Surveys

Local data can help us define the affordability problem at ISU

Examples from DePaul (attached) –

Would be effective to get information from students and faculty about textbook affordability

It could be beneficial to have questions in the course evaluations about textbook use and costs for the class

The textbook costs and uses vary between disciplines – need a random sample with a 60-70% response rate for beneficial information

This would be hard, but by implementing it into a course it could work

Only at undergraduate level

Could potentially implement it into course evaluation times – keep it short and sweet and do it at the end of Spring

Faculty may be concerned about it taking up their class time

We need to figure out what we really want to know – did they use the book, how much was it, was it necessary to buy it, etc.

If a course doesn’t use a textbook it would still be data

Ask the faculty the reason behind choosing their textbooks or why they don’t use a textbook at all

Distributed by library’s OER working group

Library guide about OERs - https://libguides.depaul.edu/c.php?g=598894&p=4146218

Notes from Sue, my contact there: “We distributed through email to all faculty and students. I think the subject line of our email to students caught their eye and perhaps contributed to such a good return rate. Let’s fight high textbook costs together. I think we also marketed the student survey through Twitter and Facebook if I remember correctly.”

Committee is generally in favor in doing two surveys – one for staff and one for faculty

Models for textbook affordability?

Identify 3-5 models that universities use, publishers offer, and students act on

Web presence

Purpose/audience(s)
Where it should live
Main content

Programming/Educational Event

Have event where survey data is revealed – during Open Education Week?
Panel about affordable course materials – library, student, faculty

Other?

Announcements/Miscellaneous:

Adjournment: November 30th, 2018 at 2:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan Anderson