

TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

[Milner Library 614A](#)

Meeting Notes

Members Attending: Julie Murphy, Tom Lucey, Mallory Jallas, Taylor Daker

Guests Attending: Carla Birckelbaw

Members Absent: Joe Hendrix, Antonio Causarano, Morgan Taylor, Sally Nadeau, Stephanie Duquenne, Tom Lucey, Lisa Lawless

Call to Order: 2:05 – no quorum, no official business

Action Items:

1. Review and approve [draft minutes from December 2022](#) - not approved, need quorum
2. Determine notetaker

Information Items:

1. All members should have access to Teams site
2. In process of updating the [Textbook Affordability Committee website](#)

Discussion Items:

1. Welcome Carla Birckelbaw – sharing SGA request related to textbook affordability
 - a. Carla shared SGA resolution to the meeting invite ([file is saved in TAC's Teams site](#))
 - b. Resolution was product of Carla and Morgan's collaboration – interest of CIO and support student success
 - c. Expanding off what we know locally – dreaming big
 - d. Working with Canvas team to identify what LTIs could aid this effort
 - e. Adding open access information to Course Finder for students to identify low/no cost course offerings
 - f. Julie Murphy: adding etextbook options to Course Finder info as well – this semester there were around 900 unique ISBNs in textbook list from Registrar – and 450 of those are offered as etextbooks from Milner
 - g. How are books prioritized?
 - i. Julie Murphy: has shifted from semester to semester – early on, it was limited to license options (unlimited and non-linear) for titles available and then a cost benefit ratio was calculated based on potential student savings. In the early days we spent as much as we could up to 10k in funding we had each semester – thanks to GEER Grant funds – we had more funding and were able to expand license options. GEER runs out this spring – fall 2023 won't have the same funding source.
 - ii. Funding for maintaining this project could be a goal
 - iii. Julie to share persistence of etextbooks/textbook data from ISU
 - iv. Are we approaching a saturation point of what the library can provide as eTextbooks? – JM thinks we are approaching that, not there yet

- v. Connecting with faculty about textbook selection and what is available to the library – sometimes this is happening. Library has promoted this messaging through liaison librarians to each department
 - vi. Etextbook project research – pros/cons, impact on reading comprehension with print vs. Electronic
 - vii. Student survey
 - viii. How can committee help? Getting up to speed will be first step
 - ix. Invite Carla to future meetings of committee
2. Re-visiting communication plan – tabled for future discussion
 - a. Last year's committee [drafted a slidedeck that could be used for a brief presentation at faculty meetings about textbook affordability and resources.](#)
 - b. Considering audiences for textbook affordability information: faculty, staff (specifically advisors came up in a recent discussion), students
 3. Student textbook survey – tabled for future discussion
 - a. At our last meeting, we discussed gathering more/current data from students about textbook affordability.
 - b. The committee last ran the student survey in 2019
 - i. Here are the 2019 student survey questions: [2019StudentSurveyFinal.docx](#)
 - ii. Here is the 2019 student survey report: [TACStudentSurveyReport.docx](#)
 - c. The Consortium of Academic Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) is planning to run a survey this spring for member institutions (ISU is a member) about textbook affordability and open educational resources.
 - i. Here is a draft of their questions: [Draft Questionnaire Illinois Course Materials Survey Student Perspective 221220.docx](#)
 - d. Do we want to pursue our own survey this semester? Or would we like to implement the CARLI student survey? Or another option?

Announcements/Miscellaneous:

Library of Congress Literacy Awards – investigate if that can be used for funding textbooks

Taylor Daker asked about ISU publications – how do these fit in the landscape? Grassroots writing journal, science manuals are unique items students have to purchase

Taylor reported there are a lot of Snapchat textbook sales they are observing

Julie and Mallory shared previous ideas about textbook swap/selling. There are many examples of different types of events happening on other campuses- Textbook exchange events that donate left over items to Better World Books,

Taylor exploring interest/options from SGA for hosting event late this spring

Adjournment: 2:50