TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE

**Thursday, January 24, 2019**

1:00 p.m.

Milner Library, 311

**Agenda**

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

**Members Absent -** Anne Shelley

**Call to Order: January 24, 2019 at 1:00 pm**

**Action Items**:

1. Review and approve minutes from 11/30/2018 TAC meeting – approved at 1:00 pm

**Information Items**:

1. Update on report at 12/4/18 Academic Senate Meeting – postponed until next meeting when Anne will be present
2. New Babson Report (“Freeing the Textbook”, 2018 ed.) is published
   1. <https://www.onlinelearningsurvey.com/reports/freeingthetextbook2018.pdf>

**Discussion Items:**

1. Models of textbook affordability (Dr. Palmer) –
   1. The models brainstorm ideas for strategies that could be done to work with faculty members, to force the hand of textbook publishers to lower prices (University of California is doing this), etc.
      1. Dr. Palmer is taking these strategies and trying to group them
   2. Going to be postponed for now, Dr. Palmer is going to continue looking through these models throughout the next month
2. Surveys – the purpose is to figure out what the textbook affordability problem is, how we’re going to structure the surveys, what questions would give us the best insight to the textbook affordability problem
   1. Faculty
   2. Student – we decided that we should first focus on the student survey
      1. May be better to use a randomized sample and specify the questions to a certain class – they could have chosen to not buy a book 2 years ago, which could lead our results astray; depends on the class
   3. The committee looked at questions provided by DePaul University Libraries that was distributed to students on their campus. Questions from that survey were used as a model for ours and appear below.
   4. What questions to ask
      1. This semester, have you decided not to acquire a required textbook or other course material because it was too expensive?
         1. Want to know when a student decides to draw the line on buying a textbook because of cost
      2. What factors affected your decision not to acquire a required textbook or other course material this semester? (select all that apply)
         1. Cost
         2. I do not learn well from textbooks
         3. Textbook was not available when I tried to purchase
         4. Did not seem necessary to purchase to be successful in the course
         5. My friend has a copy
         6. I can get a copy at the library
         7. Other (please specify) –
      3. In this semester (may also change to “in this class” if we do a random sample), has the cost of required textbooks or other course materials caused you to (select all that apply)
      4. How much did you spend on textbooks this semester?
         1. Less than $100
         2. $101-$300
         3. $301-$500
         4. $501-$700
         5. More than $700
         6. I’m not sure
      5. What are the funding sources you used to pay for your textbooks this semester? (select all that apply)
         1. Credit cards
         2. Grants/scholarships – we are going to ask financial aid what the best terminology would be to use here
         3. Loans
         4. Work
         5. Family
         6. I don’t work
         7. Other (please specify) –
      6. Is there anything else you would like to share with us regarding the cost of textbooks/required course materials and the way in which it impacts your learning?
      7. Do you identify as (check as many as apply):
         1. African American
         2. American Indian/Alaska Native
         3. Asian
         4. Caucasian
         5. Hispanic/Latino
         6. Multiracial/Non-Hispanic
         7. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
            1. We will use the University’s categories instead of these
      8. What gender are you?
         1. Female
         2. Male
         3. Other
            1. We will also use the University’s categories for this question
   5. What distribution method(s) to use
      1. We would like to include it at the end of course evaluations OR
      2. Go into the selected classrooms and distribute a paper survey by hand and collect afterwards
3. Programming/Educational Event
   1. Panel about affordable course materials – library, student, faculty?
   2. During Open Education Week (early March)?
4. Other?

**Announcements/Miscellaneous: Look through the other example survey before our next meeting, Morgan will bring the old surveys that SGA took a little while back, Financial aid sent out a survey in November about expenses like books, so we could possibly ask them for that data.**

**Adjournment: at 1:58 pm**

We missed you today, Anne! Feel better soon. 😊

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan Anderson