Affordable Course Materials

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and

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Overview:

1. Affordable Course Materials Initiative

2. Grant Process

3. Faculty perspective
Task force members:

Jane Morris, Scholarly Communication & Special Initiatives Librarian
Margaret Cohen, Educational Resource Center
Judith Gordon, Professor of Management and Chairperson, Management and Organization Department
Adaline Mirabal-Camacho, Learning to Learn, Montserrat Coalition
Clare O’Connor, Biology Department
John Rakestraw, Center for Teaching Excellence
Kit Baum, Professor of Economics and Social Work
Task force charge:

In order to address the escalating cost of academic textbooks, this group will approach the issue in two distinct ways. First, the group will explore the establishment of an initiative to support faculty who revise their curriculum to include only high quality materials that can be accessed at minimal cost to individual students. The group should propose a funding model, application process, award criteria, support infrastructure and criteria by which the effectiveness of the program may be assessed. A proposal should be forthcoming by January 1, 2015, and should set target time frames for applications, awards and implementation of the revised curricula. Second, the group will gather data about the effect of the cost of course materials on Boston College students and plan to inform faculty about these costs.
Grant Process

✓ Competitive application process
✓ Savings per student over the previous course materials/projected number enrolled
✓ Preference for courses to be implemented by Fall semester, 2016, at the latest
✓ Creation of new publicly accessible materials
   Newly created materials must be made publicly accessible in eScholarship@BC and must be offered to the public under a Creative Commons license that allows reuse and creation of derivative works.
✓ Strength of the application
Support for faculty

- Workshop given jointly by the University Libraries and the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE).
- Subject specialist librarian
- CTE staff will be available for Canvas and other technology consultations and curriculum design support.
- Resulting open access products may be hosted in eScholarship@BC, the institutional repository administered by the Libraries
Affordable Course Materials Initiative Guide

OVERVIEW OF THE INITIATIVE

The high cost of textbooks is a well-publicized problem for students in higher education. Initial data indicates that one-third of high financial need students at Boston College do not buy any course materials. Actual costs for course materials may be over $1000 per semester, double the maximum allotment from financial aid. In order to address the escalating cost of academic resources we are piloting an initiative to support faculty who revise their curriculum to include high quality affordable materials to support student learning at minimal cost.

The new curriculum resources may be newly-created teaching materials, publicly accessible materials and subscribed resources (from the Boston College Libraries) or any combination of the three.

The Provost has pledged financial support for this initiative and we invite you to help address this issue by engaging in a competitive grant process that will award $2000 each to support as many as 7 faculty members who adopt a new curricular resource strategy.

PLEASE NOTE: The May 8 deadline for applications has now passed. Applications will no longer be accepted.

GRANT PROCESS

The application process for support will be competitive. Seven grants will be available to the first round of applicants, in the amount of $2000 each.

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Savings per student over the previous course materials and projected number enrolled
- Preference for courses to be implemented by Fall semester, 2016, at the latest
- Creation of new publicly accessible materials strengthens the application. Newly created materials must be made publicly accessible in escholarship@BC and must be offered to the public under a Creative Commons license that allows reuse and creation of derivative works.

WORKSHOP AND TIMELINE

If you are interested in applying for a grant, please attend one of the Affordable Course Materials Initiative information sessions to be held on Thursday, April 9 at 3:00 pm and on Friday, April 10 at 10 am. Both sessions will be held in the Center for Teaching Excellence Innovation Lab. Please click on a link above to RSVP and reserve your place in a workshop session.

Librarians and CTE consultants will be available to discuss

- availability of open educational resources
- copyright and licensing issues/Creative Commons licenses
- accessibility concerns
- creating a sustainable curriculum
2015 PROCESS

In this inaugural year of the Affordable Course Materials Initiative, ten grants of support were awarded to faculty applicants. Funding was provided by the Provost. Award decisions were made by a steering group made up of faculty, administrators and librarians. Each faculty member receives support from a dedicated three-person team: a librarian from the steering group, a subject specialist librarian and a Center for Teaching Excellence Instructional designer.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty member</th>
<th>Dept/School</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Target implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sergio Alvarez</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Randomness and Computation</td>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynne Christy Anderson</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>First Year Writing, English Language Learners</td>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristen Bottema-Beutel</td>
<td>Teacher Education, LSOE</td>
<td>Classroom Management</td>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geraldine Grimm</td>
<td>German Studies</td>
<td>Intermediate German</td>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Holper</td>
<td>Law School</td>
<td>Immigration Practice</td>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Houchin</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Popular Entertainment</td>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Haze Peters</td>
<td>Maternal/Child Health, CSON</td>
<td>Child Health Nursing Theory</td>
<td>Fall 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Straubing</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Logic and Computation</td>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pieter VanderWerf</td>
<td>Operations Mgt., CSOM</td>
<td>Math for Management Science</td>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
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Faculty Perspective

Kristen Bottema-Beutel, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Special Education
Lynch School of Education, Boston College
My Dilemma
Course textbook proved inadequate (my course evals said so)
Not current, little basis in research
My Initial Solution: Add Handbook of Classroom Management in addition to practitioner book (upwards of $200 total)
A Better Solution

Select from a variety of sources, including book chapters, journal articles, and online videos

Provides for optimal combination of readings geared to practitioners, current research, and theory
But How?

Have a team of professionals help me!

Assistance in selecting databases, choosing appropriate materials

Locating online videos and multimedia

Clipping and managing videos

Assistance in curating my collection on Canvas
End Result

Current cost of textbooks for my course: $0.00

24 different sources represented in the reading list

A revamped syllabus: All materials are up-to-date, relevant to students, and arranged for access

Will be easier to update for future iterations; will not require wholesale rearranging based on a new book edition