

Textbook Affordability Council (TAC)

HCLC & Library

Conference Room 220

March 21, 2018, 11AM – Noon

Minutes

Council members: Princess Clark, SGA Student Representative; Jody Defore, Financial Aid; Wanda Grant, Bookstore; Sonya Gaither, HCLC & Library; Anna Higgins-Harrell, CETL Director; Ashley Kalle, Institutional Research; Sam Lifsey, Information Technology; Lynn Rumfelt, Faculty and ALG Campus Champion; Brenda Rutherford, HCLC & Library, ALG Library Coordinator; Autumn Schafer, D2L Administrator; Connie Wade, Bookstore; Justin White, Business Office

Attendance: Jody Defore; Wanda Grant; Sonya Gaither; Anna Higgins-Harrell; Ashley Kalle, Sam Lifsey; Lynn Rumfelt; Brenda Rutherford; Autumn Schafer; Connie Wade

Agenda

1. Council Charge – Dr. Knighton gave the Council the official charge and offered full support from the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost's Office. Statistics¹ were shared regarding cost savings, OERs used on campus, average book cost per student. After the charge, the Council was officially called to order to begin conducting business.
2. Introduction of council members – Attendees introduced themselves and why they are interested in servicing on the council.
3. Elect Secretary – A motion/second was made to nominate Wanda Grant as TAC Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Review of how TAC was started - TAC History – Sonya Gaither was tasked by the Provost to make the promotion and utilization of open education resources and Affordable Learning Georgia a top priority in Academic Affairs. This is also a priority for the USG Chancellor and across the Nation.
 - a. Anna Higgins-Harrell, Lynn Rumfelt, Wanda Grant, Brenda Rutherford, and Sonya Gaither met to discuss how to respond to the Provost's request. W. Grant, L. Rumfelt, B. Rutherford, and S. Gaither attended the 2017 Textbook Affordability Conference held at Georgia Tech and determined how they would proceed. Afterwards, they determined a council was needed and asked other campus members with an interest in reducing textbook costs or providing open education resources in the classroom to join.

b. The Council's purpose, goals, and alignment with the Gordon State mission were provided as follows:

- organize and charge the Textbook Affordability Council (seek the blessing of the Provost)
- get buy-in from Administration/ Faculty/Students (marketing campaign, CETL panel, library workshops)
- create and implement student and faculty surveys about ALG/OERs/textbook affordability (based on data from IR/bookstore/Financial Aid)
- create CETL panel, library workshops to promote ALG, OERs, text affordability
- collect data from IR/bookstore/Financial Aid (this will help us determine what questions to ask on the survey)

- From the survey results, define what affordability means to Gordon State.
- We would like to know the mission of the Bookstore and promote it among the faculty.
- We want to create a Textbook Affordability Council website.
- We've identified persons to serve on the Textbook Affordability Council: Financial Aid representative, Autumn Schaffer, Sam Lifsey, Ashley Kalle, SGA representative, Anna Higgins-Harrell, Wanda Grant, Lynn Rumfelt, Brenda Rutherford, and Sonya Gaither. We also want to ask other faculty members using OERs or library resources to help promote and/or participate in some way with TAC. These faculty members could possibly serve as fellows or champions.
- Ask the Provost to allow the library to oversee TAC, have TAC to report to him, as well as remain a council in perpetuity.

The purpose of the Textbook Affordability Council will be to:

- Promote and support affordable or free teaching and learning materials to save students money
- Provide credible and reliable learning resources for the classroom

Align the TAC purpose to the College's mission - <http://www.gordonstate.edu/about/vision-mission-statement>:

- First bullet under Mission: **Gordon State College will strive to ensure affordable, supportive access to high quality post-secondary education**

Third bullet under Core Values: **Accessibility – to ensure affordable, supportive access to high quality post-secondary education**

5. Discuss next steps
 - a. Reviewed previous work conducted by Rutherford, Grant, Rumfelt, Gaither, and Higgins-Harrell.
 - i. Attended Textbook Affordability Conference in November 2017 at Georgia Tech
 - ii. Brainstormed ideas for next steps
 - iii. Formed TAC and sought approval from Provost
 - iv. Conducted CETL workshop on Affordable Learning Georgia and OERs
 - v. Library sponsored Open Education Resources workshops
 - vi. Bookstore link added to Library web site
 - b. Reviewed Affordable Learning Georgia and book store web sites
 - c. Discussed textbook requisition process and cost comparison link on web site
 - d. Discussed course catalog designators that will show no or low-cost textbooks (\$40 or less) in Banner at beginning of Fall 2018
 - e. Develop workshops and publicity
 1. Open Education Resources and library resources to embed into D2L
 2. USG Copyright expectations, Fair Use, and Copyright in general
 3. Creative Commons Licenses, Inclusive access
 4. Affordable Learning Georgia and book transformation grants, application process
 5. Academic freedom and the use of OERs and no or low-cost textbooks
 6. Bookstore, Financial Aid, Textbooks, Affordability, Student Success
 7. Research existing ALG/OER surveys – need to determine faculty opinions, etc.
 8. Research faculty use of ALG/OERs – how much is really being saved
 9. What does affordability mean at Gordon State?
 - f. TAC SharePoint site will be created for communication and the sharing of documents.
 - g. The next meeting date will be set for April 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10PM.

¹Between 2015 and 2017: Use of open education resources increased significantly or not at all. Fall 2017, there were 317 class sections (or 22%) that did not use a textbook. The average cost for textbooks was \$95 per text for a savings of \$741,780. The average book cost dropped from \$95 to \$78 for a total savings of \$588,540 (1,154 class sections). (Statistics provided by Dr.Knighton based on reports from Bookstore and Business Office.)