FY 2020 Annual Report

Textbook Affordability Committee

**I. Executive Summary/Background:**

The Textbook Affordability Committee (TAC) is a standing external mixed committee that reports to the Academic Affairs Committee. The TAC structure and functions are provided in the Blue Book supplement to the Bylaws of the Academic Senate.

The TAC held seven meetings from August 2019 to April 2020. The TAC welcomed several new members, as detailed below. The TAC created a Teams channel to organize and make available to all members files such as meeting agendas and minutes, annual reports, and data from surveys. The committee focused on outreach this year by meeting with several campus stakeholders and sharing data at two campus conferences.

In March 2020, the TAC distributed a survey to faculty asking about their priorities when assigning required textbooks and course materials. The survey received 165 responses, however, the committee has decided to resend the survey after noticing an error in the mass e-mail recipient list. A preliminary report from the survey is included with this annual report.

Finally, the TAC created a draft web presence for textbook affordability information at Illinois State University. The audiences for the website are students and faculty. The committee plans to populate the website in 2020 and publicize it to individual stakeholders and more widely (such as through a News story).

**II. Membership**

The Committee is composed of nine voting members.

* *Three students* (at least one Senator and one non-Senator, nominated and elected by the Student Government Association for one-year terms):

Senators Caleb Howard (2019-) and Joshua Crockett (2019-), and non-Senator Laurence Bender (2018-)

* *Three faculty* (one Senator or Senate designee and two non-Senators, nominated and elected by Faculty Caucus for staggered two-year terms):

Senator Julie Murphy (2019-21) and non-Senators Michaelene Cox (2019-21) and Euysup Shim (2019-21)

* *Dean of Milner Library or designee*:

Designee Anne Shelley (2017-)

* *University Registrar or designee*:

Designee Crystal Nourie (through Fall 2019) and designee Pam Walden (2019-)

* *Vice President of Student Affairs or designee:*

Designee Danielle Miller-Schuster (through Fall 2019) and designee Joe Hendrix (2019-)

**III. Major Activities, Accomplishments, or Significant Changes**

* Elected committee chair and established meeting dates; decided on member rotation for taking minutes
* Created a repository of committee data (Aligns with “Research” section of strategic plan)
  + Teams site contains meeting agendas and minutes, TAC strategic plan, annual reports, and materials for student and faculty surveys
* Shared student survey responses with campus stakeholders (Aligns with “Education” part of TAC strategic plan)
  + Oral presentation at 2019 Culturally Responsive Campus Community Conference on topic of textbook affordability as an equity issue (library designee and colleague)
  + Poster presentation at 2020 CTLT Symposium
  + University College director and staff
  + Associate VP for Undergraduate Education Amy Hurd
  + Provost
* Created and distributed survey to faculty on decisions/priorities when selecting required textbooks and course materials (Aligns with “Research” section of TAC strategic plan)
  + Goal from FY2020
  + High-level summary and the survey instrument are included with this report
* Created website for textbook affordability topics on campus (Aligns with “Education” section of TAC strategic plan)
  + <https://about.illinoisstate.edu/textbookaffordability/>
  + Resources and suggestions for students and faculty to help lower textbook costs
  + High-level results from student and faculty surveys
  + Information about TAC
  + FAQ
  + News about textbook industry (publisher initiatives, open textbooks, etc.)
* Responded to prompts from campus stakeholders
  + Textbook Policy revision questions, from Academic Affairs Committee
  + Providing answer to campus FAQ on how/where students can buy textbooks
* Scheduled workshop for faculty on strategies for making course materials affordable (Aligns with “Education” section of TAC strategic plan)
  + Library designee collaborating with CTLT to offer online workshop in June 2020

**IV. Major Goals, Objectives, and Issues for Academic Year 2020-21**

* Elect a Chair/Co-Chairs and a Secretary; establish meeting dates
* Revisit TAC strategic plan and revise as needed
* Analyze and respond to data collected from the faculty survey on the cost of textbooks and course materials
  + Aligns with “Research” section of strategic plan
* Explore initiatives discussed during FY20
  + Inclusive access contracts with publishers/vendors
  + Textbook Swap program
* Update Textbook Affordability at Illinois State University website as needed

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Shelley  
Milner Library Designee  
TAC Chair, FY2020