FY 2021 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 2020 to April 2021. Most of the committee’s members were continuing from the previous year. Interim Assistant Vice President for Student Success Amelia Noël-Elkins regularly attended TAC meetings as a guest.

The TAC finalized and published a website with information about textbook affordability at Illinois State University. The audiences for the website are students and faculty. The website has been publicized to students and faculty.

The committee discussed results of the faculty textbook survey that was distributed in Spring 2020. The survey received 318 valid responses. A detailed analysis of the survey data has been performed by committee member Euysup Shim and his graduate assistant Apoorva Joshi. A summary of that analysis is included with this report.

Milner Library designee Anne Shelley partnered with CTLT to provide a faculty workshop on open and affordable course materials twice in FY2021. A total of 23 faculty registered for these workshops.

**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):

Senator Caleb Howard (2020-21) and non-Senator Joshua Crockett (2020-21). SGA President Lauren Harris (2020-21) attended select meetings and participated in e-mail discussions.

* *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 Pam Walden (2019-)

* *Vice President of Student Affairs or designee:*

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
* Reviewed and analyzed data from Spring 2020 faculty survey on their decisions/priorities when selecting required textbooks and course materials (Aligns with “Research” section of TAC strategic plan)
  + Goal from FY2021
* Updated and promoted website for textbook affordability topics on campus (Aligns with “Education” section of TAC strategic plan)
  + <https://about.illinoisstate.edu/textbookaffordability/>
  + Worked with WEB to make website discoverable in MY Illinois State and on Campus A-Z list
  + Worked with University News to publicize website
    - <https://news.illinoisstate.edu/2021/03/new-website-published-on-textbook-affordability-issues/>
  + Goal from FY2021
* Milner Library designee, in partnership with CTLT, offered workshop for faculty: Affordability of Course Materials: An Equity Issue.
  + The workshop was delivered asynchronously through ReggieNet and attendees had the option of a consultation
  + A total of 23 faculty registered for the workshop, which was offered in May 2020 and October 2020
* Discussed TAC membership and charge revisions proposed by the Senate Rules Committee, provided feedback to chair
  + The document approved by the Rules Committee is included with this report
  + Rules Committee recommendations about TAC membership
    - Increase number of student representatives to four
    - Increase number of faculty to four
    - Add Assistant Vice President for Student Success or Designee
    - All members have voting privileges
  + Revised membership and charge still needs to be voted on by Senate as of April 2021
* Discussed models of programs at other higher education institutions
  + Textbook swap
  + Fundraising/advancement initiative to support students’ textbook costs
* Scheduled workshop for faculty on strategies for making course materials affordable (Aligns with “Education” section of TAC strategic plan)
  + Library designee collaborating with Milner colleagues and CTLT to offer online workshop in May 2021

**IV. Major Goals, Objectives, and Issues for Academic Year 2021-22**

* Elect a Chair/Co-Chairs and a Secretary; establish meeting dates
* Act on revisions to TAC charge and membership as needed
* Revisit TAC strategic plan and revise as needed
* Explore initiatives discussed during FY21
  + Textbook swap program
  + Fundraising/advancement initiative to support students’ textbook costs
  + Inclusive access contracts with publishers/vendors
* Update Textbook Affordability at Illinois State University website as needed

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Shelley  
Milner Library Designee  
TAC Chair, FY2021