

Roger Williams University
Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Minutes for April 24, 2019
2:00-3:00 PM in GHH 300

Members in attendance: Gregg (GSB), Leavitt (MNS), MacPhee (SS), Tait (SHAE-A), Topf (SHAE-H), Van Schepen (AAHP), Schlinke (Library)

Guest: Lindsey Gumb, Scholarly Communications Librarian

1. The purpose of the meeting was to learn about open source and licensed material available through the RWU library that faculty can use in place of individually purchased textbooks.
2. Cost of textbooks has been rising and poses a considerable financial burden for students.
 - National average for cost of textbooks at 4 yr private is \$1,200 per year – RWU student survey showed up to \$1000 per semester
 - Survey also found that 73% of students chose not to buy a book because of cost.
 - Adopting no cost course material in courses has the potential to increase learning
3. Obstacles to providing copyrighted material to students at no cost (ex. Library-licensed content)
 - Copyright laws limit how individual consumers can use intellectual property
 - One of the main concerns for faculty is redistribution regulation. Fair use law limits the amount of a copyrighted source instructors can redistribute to students for the purpose of teaching. This law applies to material licensed to the library as well as privately owned books and subscriptions.
4. Open Educational Resources (OER)
 - Free to use
 - Openly-licensed (Creative Commons/public domain) so that users of the material often have the permission to:
 - i. Reuse
 - ii. Revise
 - iii. Remix
 - iv. Redistribute
 - v. Retain
 - Allows instructor to tailor material for a particular course rather than having to tailor the course to fit textbooks available for purchase
 - Examples:
 - i. Textbooks
 - ii. Syllabi
 - iii. Lesson plans
 - iv. Modules (such as open course ware)
5. OER Faculty Fellows Program
 - Faculty work with Gumb over the summer to incorporate OER into a course. Options include:
 - i. Developing new OER material (faculty and students can contribute to this process)
 - ii. Adapting existing OER material
 - iii. Adopting existing OER material (without changes)
 - Steering Committee members asked about issues related to the format of OER material, which is digital. Some students have difficulty retaining information from digital texts.

Although printing is an option, that strategy can become costly. Some fellows have put printed copies of OER book chapters on reserve in the library.

6. A LibGuide on OER, along with a self-paced tutorial, is available on the Library website:
<http://rwu.libguides.com/OER>
7. RWU's OER Program would like to introduce more faculty to the resources and opportunities available for lowering the costs of course materials for students. Planning for presentations, discussions, and a screening of the documentary *Pay Wall* is underway for Fall 2019.
8. The committee also discussed the increasing costs of publishing research papers to allow for open access. Faculty often pay those fees individually. Research universities have attempted to manage some of the cost through library contract negotiations with large publishers. RWU may need to explore similar strategies in the future.

Respectfully submitted
Marybeth MacPhee, PhD
Steering Committee Chair
May 6, 2019