The UNH OER Ambassadors Program

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Open Educational Resources at UNH

April 29, 2017
Open Educational Practices

• Open Pedagogy – Teaching methods that focus on open participation, creation, collaboration, and reuse
• Open Access Publishing – Making scholarship accessible to all potential readers
• Open Educational Resources – Low-cost, reusable, and editable learning materials
The Problem

Figure 1: Estimated Increases in New College Textbook Prices, College Tuition and Fees, and Overall Consumer Price Inflation, 2002 to 2012

More recent data show that textbook prices continued to rise from 2002 to 2012 at an average of 6 percent per year, while tuition and fees increased at an average of 7 percent and overall prices increased at an average of 2 percent per year. As reflected in figure 1 below, new textbook prices increased by a total of 82 percent over this time period, while tuition and fees increased by 89 percent and overall consumer prices grew by 28 percent.
$1,328

Average student budget for **books and supplies** for the 2014 – 2015 academic year

This is a **10.2% increase** over 2013 – 2014 budget of $1,207

The overall 2014 US inflation rate was only **1.62%**
2 in 3
Students say they decided against buying a textbook because the cost is too high

1 in 2
Students say they have at some point taken fewer courses due to the cost of textbooks

The Problem
Students can’t learn from materials they can’t afford.
A Solution – OER

*Open Educational Resources* are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. OER include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge.

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation - [http://www.hewlett.org/programs/education/open-educational-resources](http://www.hewlett.org/programs/education/open-educational-resources)
What does it take to motivate and support faculty to adopt OER?
OER Ambassadors Pilot Goals

1. Support and evaluate the use of OER in a variety of courses at UNH.
2. Maximize student learning outcomes while reducing or eliminating the cost of instructional materials.
3. Establish a cohort of academic leaders committed to improving student learning through the use of OER and eager to share their experiences with the UNH community.
Financial Support

- Each of 9 OER Ambassadors received a grant of $3000 to support work over the summer.
- Funding for the pilot was provided by the Provost’s Office, Schools and Colleges, Library, and Academic Technology.
- Ambassadors adopt OER in one course and share experience with the community
Support Teams

Teams included an instructional designer, librarian, and assessment expert.

The teams assisted with course design, locating and selecting OER, technical and copyright issues, and implementing an assessment plan.
Librarians

• OER can be found across a network of repositories and other websites.

• Finding the OER on the right topic, at the right level, and in the right format can be a challenge.

• Open licenses enable faculty to remix, combine, and customize OER to meet immediate needs.

• Open concepts and copyright issues come up frequently.

• Subject librarians can offer domain support.
Brainshops

Ambassadors and Support Team members met as a group over the summer and into the fall to discuss plans, ideas, and challenges. These meetings have become the foundation for a community of practice around Open Educational Practices at UNH.
OER Pilot Results – Year 1

• About 1,040 Students saved up to $149,319
  – Small financial investment ($30,500) yields significant student cost savings

• Students outcomes were the same or better
  – Exams scores were either similar to or exceeded scores from exams from previous year

• Perceptions of OER
  – Faculty: the time and effort were worthwhile
  – Students: favorable perception of cost savings, usability of materials, and exam preparation

• Faculty indicated they would continue using OER and were satisfied with the support they received
Results - Year 2

• USNH grant $385,350 to support Open Education at Granite State College, Keene State College, Plymouth State University, and UNH.

• 15 New UNH Ambassadors

• Year 1 plus Year 2 savings ~$270,000

• Another 15 Ambassadors selected for Year 3
Outreach and Assessment

– Survey of instructional staff
– Faculty Senate presentation
– Undergraduate and Graduate student leaders
– System-level awareness and support
– Promotional video
– Leadership retreat
My Take

• Ethics of librarianship
• "Open" as a movement
• Value of collaboration
• Filling in the OR gaps
• Beyond savings
• Community of practice
Workshop

• Understanding Creative Commons
• Searching for OER
• Evaluating OER
• Citing OER