

## Textbook and Materials Affordability Subgroup of the Affordability Pillar of the Students First Initiative Report to Faculty Senate

**Date:** 4/25/2021

**Submitted by:** Karen Bjork

### **Members of the Subgroup:**

- Library – Karen Bjork (Chair)
- Office of the Registrar – Cindy Baccar
- Office of Academic Innovation – Jaime Wood
- School of Business -Nathanial Garrod
- School of Business - Michael Dimond
- Maseeh College of Engineering & Computer Science - Christof Teuscher
- College of the Arts, Film - Mark Berrettini
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, English - Joel Bettridge
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Mathematics - Gerardo Lafferriere
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Physics - Jay Nadeau\*
- College of Education, Special Education - Amy Parker
- School of Social Work, MSW Program Director - Sarah Bradley
- School of Public Health, Community Health - Ashley-Nicole Browning\*
- College of Urban & Public Affairs, Criminology and Criminal Justice - Mauri Matsuda\*
- Rachel Done, Publishing, Technical Writing, and Comics Studies Student and PSU UNST Grad Peer Mentor - Student Representative

\* Faculty members designated by the Committee on Committees

### **Subgroup Scope:**

The mission of the Textbook and Materials Affordability Subgroup of the Affordability Pillar of the Student's First Initiative is to meet the requirements of Oregon [HB 2213](#) and [HB 2871](#). The goal of the subcommittee is to reduce the costs of course materials for Portland State University students, and to improve student success.

The subgroup started in January 2021 and was divided into two working groups.

#### *Low Cost/No-Cost Designation:*

This working group is focused on defining and providing criteria for the no-cost and low-cost course designation. The working group is creating a guide that will provide the Portland State University Faculty community with a detailed overview of labeling policies and practical implementation tools for accurately designating courses in the Schedule of Classes (SOC), including definitions and case examples.

The working group will complete a bulk of the work by the end of Spring Term 2021.

*Comprehensive Plan:*

This working group is charged with creating an Affordable Learning Plan that will meet the requirements of HB2213. This includes

- Establishing target numbers for how many PSU courses will be designated as using low-cost or no-cost course materials.
- Creating steps taken to advertise the availability of academic courses designated as using low-cost or no-cost course materials.
- Establishing a statement of support for the academic freedom of faculty and instructors to select high-quality course materials for courses taught by the faculty and instructors.
- Recommending a formula for evaluating student financial savings and establish a target amount of student savings that will result from adoption of the plan.

This working group has just gotten started and aims to complete the plan by the end of Fall term 2021.