Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Between Office of Academic Affairs
And
University Library

Reference: PDX Open: Reducing Student Textbook Costs

I. Purpose

This MOU outlines partnership roles and responsibilities for implementation of the Provost Challenge project: PDX Open: Reducing Student Textbook Costs

II. Project Description and Key Project Outcomes

Overview:
The continued increase of textbook prices is a recognized barrier for many students. Students in both the online and on-campus environment find that they cannot afford to purchase required materials. However, the adoption of open educational resources, particularly online and open access textbooks, is a developing strategy to lower this barrier for students. We propose that PSU Library create an infrastructure for open textbook publishing and work in collaboration with interested faculty who wish to develop open access materials. This project would capitalize on existing Library investments which can be further developed with start-up funding through an Inspiration grant. Library supported open textbook publishing will enable our faculty to author textbooks that are freely accessible to their students. Also, the flexibility of locally authored open textbooks allows for customizable content, increasing the relevance of the entire text and alignment with PSU program learning outcomes. These born-digital textbooks will complement online learning as well as benefiting on-campus students. Other benefits of the project include dissemination and distribution of PSU faculty disciplinary knowledge and pedagogical expertise to the larger academic community and public, and the heightened visibility of PSU’s unique strengths in the areas of community engagement and sustainability.

Key project outcomes (as agreed by Project Lead and Vice Provost):

1. By September 2013, the Digital Commons infrastructure for hosting and archiving PSU faculty-authored open textbooks will be developed. PSU Library’s DC instance (PDXScholar) will allow for easy findability and stable access to PSU open textbooks.
2. By September 2013, publishing support services and procedures will be developed and advertised to PSU faculty. Book cover and layout templates; ISBN registration services; formatting instructions and guideline materials will be available for PSU faculty who seek to develop open educational materials
3. By November 29, 2013 five stipends will be awarded to PSU faculty for development of an online open textbook with the anticipation of textbooks to support courses offered in Fall 2014

III. Funding

The project team will be funded up to $15,000 to achieve the outcomes established for this project. Vice Provost for Academic Innovation in consultation with Provost and the appropriate dean may increase, reduce or terminate funding for this project.
IV. Funding Agreement Terms
The funding agreements in this document are contingent upon completion of the proposed project as describe above. Changes to the agreements, timetables or funding will be based on written agreement between the College/Department and Office of Academic Affairs designees. OAA will provide an index code that will be used for funding of this project. There will be no transfer of funds.

V. Resolution of Disagreements
In the event of a disagreement that cannot be resolved by the parties, resolution will be through agreement of Vice Provost for Academic Innovation and the Dean of the Department's College or Director of the Unit.

WITNESS WHEREOF, the representatives have signed this Memorandum of Understanding on the 17th day of September, 2013.

Sarah Beasley
Project Lead, Scholarly Communication Coordinator, Library

Sukhwant Jhaj
Vice Provost for Academic Innovation and Student Success

Marilyn Moody, Dean, University Library

Enclosures:
- Copy of reThink PSU: Provost Challenge project proposal