These slides are available at http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/35958/
These quotes may sound familiar…

“I just don't buy the book and struggle through class without it.”

“There are 10 of us sharing one $300 textbook.”

“A prior student told me that you don’t really need the book for this class.”

“I can’t buy the textbook until my loan check comes in.”

“I couldn’t do the reading because the library reserve copy was checked out.”

“I found the textbook on Pirate Bay.”
Highlights:

• Pitt has the highest in-state tuition in the country for public universities.

• Students take on additional debt to pay for textbooks, or “undercut their own learning” by not purchasing textbooks.

• Pitt “should do everything in its power to control the cost of higher education”.

• This resolution calls on:
  - admin to support with grants and incentives
  - the library to help with resources
  - the government to support the Affordable College Textbook Act
  - faculty to expand use of OER

B.R.2018.01
CALLING UPON THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH TO ADOPT OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

AUTHORED BY: SGB President Max Kneis, SGB VP & Chief of Cabinet Krishani Patel, and Sarah Grzuras
CO-SPONSORED BY: Board Members Ciara Barry, Ian Callahan, Ami Fall. Maddie Guido, Zuri Kent-Smith, Nihita Manem, Alex Spenceley

09 JANUARY 2018
President Kneis introduced the following resolution, which was read for the first time.

16 JANUARY 2018
Read the second time and voted on.

A RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR THE ADOPTION OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

1. WHEREAS, the cost of college textbooks is often a major affordability issue for students, who take on additional debt to pay for textbooks, or undercut their own learning by forgoing the purchase of textbooks;
2. WHEREAS, the College Board places the annual cost of books and supplies at $1,250 with individual books costing upwards of $300;
Our students are not alone...

The direct relationship between textbook costs and student success:

- 65% do not purchase textbooks at some point due to cost
- 35% take fewer courses due to textbook cost


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Student Concern that Lack of a Textbook Will Impact Grades

- Yes, Significantly Concerned: 55%
- Yes, Somewhat Concerned: 38.6%
- Not Concerned: 6.4%

Source: 2012 student survey by Florida Virtual Campus

"The direct relationship between textbook costs and student success" by Oregon State University is licensed under CC BY-NC 4.0
Dear Colleagues:

In January 2018, the University of Pittsburgh’s Student Government Board passed a resolution supporting expanded use of Open Educational Resources (OER) and open textbooks as a means to control these escalating costs of course materials. The College Board Annual Survey of Colleges concluded the average full-time student spends up to $1,250 on course materials including textbooks and associated technologies with the average cost of a textbook as much as $300.

In response to the Student Government Board’s resolution, and out of an interest in keeping access to course materials as affordable as possible for students, I convened a working group to learn about current practices and trends, and to explore opportunities with open educational resources. I am writing to provide an update on the group’s work.

Read the full report of the OER Committee.
The Provost's plan:

• Creating the **funds to support faculty who adapt and/or adopt OER** into course materials through:
  • Small grant programs ranging from $500-$2,000 to promote adapting an open textbook or OER course component changes such as online homework, lab manuals or support materials
  • Development funding from $2,000-$5,000 to support individual or team-based development of open textbooks, or for combining an open textbook with course-specific development
• Asking that the creation of OER course materials be noted in **annual reports and promotion and tenure** processes similar to the creation of other types of course materials such as textbooks.
• Asking the Center for Teaching and Learning to develop **assessment models to measure student outcomes** in courses using OER.
• Asking that a mechanism be created for **students to identify OER course materials** in course catalogs.
• Creating a **standing committee** in the Office of the Provost to provide a targeted and sustained OER awareness program.
New Open Education Resource Grants available for 2019!
Applications are due on March 20th!

Find out more at
https://www.provost.pitt.edu/initiatives/open-educational-resources

• See past grant recipients.
• Find out more details about the grant.
• Apply!
What are Open Educational Resources?

• “syllabi, lesson plans, lab books, worksheets, video lectures, textbooks, and full courses published under an Open License that allows their reuse and repurposing by others and are freely available for anyone to use online”

What are Open Textbooks?

• “a textbook written by education professionals” or experts in the field “and released online under an Open License permitting everyone to freely use, print, share, and adapt the material”

“You get what you pay for…”

Many studies have shown that when instructors thoughtfully use OER and Open Textbooks, the quality is as good or better than a traditional textbook.

Furthermore, use of OER is associated with the same or better student outcomes, including course completion, passing scores, and overall grade.


“But are they peer reviewed?”
Finding and Using OER in your Classroom
How do I know if something is OER?

• Find it in an OER Repository
• Look for a Creative Commons License
How to find and use OER?

Use the guide!  http://pitt.libguides.com/openeducation/

Start with some of our favorite sources:
- OpenStax (textbooks)
- Open Textbook Library (textbooks)
- Merlot (OER)
- OER Commons (OER)

You can also ask your librarian!
Integrating OER into a syllabus
Using OER in courses: Several Strategies

1. Whole OER courses exist, fully formed and ready to go. You can adopt these wholesale or make changes to create a new or revamped course.

2. Open Textbooks and/or collections of materials exist for particular topics (especially introductory, general courses). Use these instead of your textbook in a class you already have put together.

3. OER components exist on many topics, e.g. activities, models, labs, exercises, videos, etc. Incorporate these into units or lessons throughout your course, perhaps slowly working towards a fully-OER class.

What if there are no good OER for my course/topic?

• If you have material already, license it openly (more on this later).
• Create something – collaborate with colleagues.
Creating OER

• If you notice something missing, you can contribute!

• Anyone can create OER themselves, whether by making something new or sharing something already made.

• The key ingredient for OER: a Creative Commons license.
With a Creative Commons license, you keep copyright, and you choose which parameters you want people to follow when they re-use your work!

For more information, visit creativecommons.org
Important Reminders

• You can only license work that isn’t already published in a proprietary outlet and owned by someone else. This doesn’t include, e.g.,
  • A chapter of a book you (or someone else) wrote.
  • A journal article published in a subscription journal.
• You can’t “take back” a Creative Commons license. Once it’s out there and people are using it according to the terms of the license, you can’t stop them.
  • That said, some publishers will agree to re-publish work that is CC licensed.
  • Publishers sometimes don’t understand that you can’t just “take down” every copy of a CC-licensed work on the whole internet.
• If you run into this, ask the library for help! The librarians at Hanley Library can assist or direct you to the Office of Scholarly Communication & Publishing.
Some thoughts on evaluation and recognition...

• For the **department chairs** and **administrators**:
  • Consider ways that you can reward your colleagues who use OER.
  • Assign a stipend, graduate assistant, or other benefit for those who are working to convert their course materials to OER.
  • If a colleague authors an OER, make sure to recognize it in their review documents!

• For **instructors**:
  • If you find and use a great resource, write a review online and send a note to the creator(s) to help with their recognition.
  • Apply for an OER grant and claim it in your portfolio.
  • Claim your work in your CV and share the experience at a conference or in an article.
Incorporating OER into Chemistry

Peter Bell
General Chemistry I & II (CHEM 0110/0120)

• ~2000 students annually
  • additional ~1000 in engineering, honors and CHS courses
• Gen Chem I
  • 8 Fall, 2 Spring, 2 Summer
• Gen Chem II
  • 2 Fall, 6 Spring, 2 Summer
General Chemistry, Ebbing & Gammon

11th edition (bookstore)
- New - $300
- Used - $225
- Rent - $170/95 (New/Used)

10th edition (Amazon)
- New - $200
- Used - $14
- Rent - $11
OpenStax Chemistry

- https://openstax.org/details/books/chemistry
- Download PDF
- View Online
- Kindle
- Print Copy
- Top Hat Integration
- Supplemental Resource
My Experience with OpenStax

**PROS**

- Similar content
  - General Chemistry is a mature subject area
- Alternative Explanations
- Additional Worked Examples
- Additional Homework

**CONS**

- Incomplete overlap with Ebbing
  - Common to any text
  - Includes additional topics
  - Excludes other topics
- End-of-Chapter Problems
- Added Workload (as supplemental)
Student Preferences

Q – In science courses, do you have a textbook preference?

- **Physical Text**: 248, 63%
- **Physical & e-Text**: 78, 20%
- **e-Text**: 67, 17%

n = 393
Textbook

Q – Which text are you accessing this year?

- 11th ed. (current), 312, 79%
- 10th ed., 49, 13%
- OpenStax, 16, 4%
- Other, 16, 4%

n = 393
Textbook Access

Q – How did you access your text?

- NEW (bookstore) - 64
- Rented (bookstore) - 18
- Used (bookstore) - 36
- New (other) - 26
- Rented (other) - 119
- Used (other) - 67
- Already Owned - 43
- Other (OpenStax, etc) - 40

n = 413
Cost of Access

Q - What is a reasonable amount to be expected to pay for a text for a two-semester science course?

- $0 - Free: 53
- $1 - $50: 97
- $51 - $75: 153
- $76 - $100: 134
- $101 - $125: 79
- $126 - $150: 46
- $151 - $200: 25
- $201 - $250: 9
- $251 or more: 0

n = 596
OER Use

Q – Have you used OER in other classes?

n = 389
Textbook Use

Q – How do you use textbooks in your science courses? I rely...

- ...entirely on text.  7
- ...mostly text.  51
- ...equally text and lecture.  160
- ...mostly lecture.  161
- ...entirely on lecture materials.  7

n = 386
OER Perception

Q – What is your perception of OER materials?

(relative to traditional texts)

n = 382
Thank you!

**Presenters:**

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