

Minnesota State Colleges & Universities

# **DRAFT**

# **Open Educational Resources**

# **Work Plan – 2013/2014**



**Minnesota**  
STATE COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES

[www.mnscu.edu](http://www.mnscu.edu)

## Overview

The Minnesota Learning Commons has been committed to looking at the Open Education Resources area for a number of years. This included membership in MERLOT and NROC, as well as, some early pilot work with repository software for content created in Minnesota. Although these efforts were helpful in becoming aware of the OER environment, they did not have the impact of widespread faculty adoption of these types of resources.

The past two years have seen significantly more attention and development in the OER landscape, both at the national and state level. One of the MnSCU performance measures is measuring and planning for a 1% reduction in the cost of instruction through the use of open education textbooks.

With the work of the MnSCU Textbook Affordability Workgroup, it has been identified that although there exists many different open education textbook initiatives and many of these appear to be high quality and level appropriate, there still is not wide spread faculty adoption.

The work plan for FY14 will consist of focusing on three main areas.

1. Convene a meeting of interested parties to meet and discuss opportunities within the MnSCU system to further explore textbook affordability and the adoption of Open Educational Resources/Textbooks.
2. Bring together interested faculty from select high enrolment/high cost textbook courses (e.g., biology, accounting, psychology), to do a scan of the OER resources available in their field and the opportunities or barriers involved in adopting these types of materials for use in their fields.
3. Create and deploy a website that is focused on textbook affordability. The work will be done in collaboration with the partners of the Minnesota Learning Commons.



## **1. Convene a meeting of interested parties to meet and discuss opportunities within the MnSCU system to further explore textbook affordability and the adoption of Open Educational Resources/Textbooks.**

Convene a Textbook Affordability day to bring together faculty, students, administrators, and staff from campuses to explore the issues and possible solutions that Open Education Resources and textbooks can have in our academic institutions.

Possible key areas of the meeting

1. Keynoter focusing on an environmental scan of what is happening in the OER landscape in higher education.
2. Highlight some campus initiatives that are happening across MnSCU that are helping drive down the costs of textbooks.
3. Highlight the work that is being done at the University of Minnesota and how we can encourage partnerships with the work they are developing.
4. Act as a springboard for the faculty workgroups in work plan item #2.

## **2. To bring together interested faculty, from select high enrolment/high cost textbook courses, to do a scan of the OER resources available in their field and the opportunities or barriers involved in adopting these types of materials for use in their fields.**

To try to work towards increased faculty awareness and adoption MnSCU Academic and Student Affairs is proposing the convening of one or two faculty groups in specific high enrolment/ high textbook cost disciplines to do an environmental scan of the open education textbooks available for those disciplines. These groups would include faculty from both MnSCU and U of M and will be given a charge from the highest level in our institutions.

Proposed faculty workgroups charge

*To explore specific Open Education Resource (OER) possibilities for their high-enrolment, high-impact courses. This environmental scan of OER in your course/discipline will identify Open textbooks, study guides, worksheets, online activities, MOOCs, videos, etc. The group will conduct peer reviews of identified materials. A final report will be produced that will provide recommendations on material adoption possibilities, current gaps in discipline specific OER materials, potential money savings with OER adoptions, and what the possible next steps to further work in this area are.*

Core Courses from High Enrolment/High Cost Disciplines

Business Admin/Accounting  
Biology  
Math  
Psychology

**3. Create and deploy a website that is focused on textbook affordability. The work will be done in collaboration with the partners of the Minnesota Learning Commons.**

To act as a resource for faculty and students, the Minnesota Learning Commons will work together to create an Affordable Learning Solutions website that is focused on the adoption of Open Education Resources and other textbook cost lowering initiatives. The site will act as a resource to highlight the proposed Textbook Affordability Day and also as a resource for the faculty groups facilitated in work plan item #2.

This website will be modelled after the work at the California State University system.