

# SGA Resolution SSR-19-03: Encourage Faculty to Use D2L ...

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Report from Academic Council Working Group  
Dean David P. Atkins, Sherrod Library

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EAST TENNESSEE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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# Background

- [SGA Resolution SSR-19-03](#)
- Encourage Faculty to Use D2L for Quizzes and Tests Instead of 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Digital Products and Services
- Academic Council Working Group studied and completed report, May 2020





# 1. Issue – More Than Textbooks

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Online Learning Environments
- Online duplicates of D2L
- Subscription, not ownership
- No ‘used copies’
- Can’t Share
- Hidden costs





## 2. Environment – Students

- Fall '19 Numbers
  - 309 sections
  - 8274 instances
  - \$1,336,000.00
  - It's Like Paying 3X or 4X Times...





## 2. Environment – Students

- Their ask...
  - Cost Controls
  - Transparency: Why These
  - Transparency: How Much





# 3. Environment – Faculty

- Fall '19: 298 Faculty
- No One Platform for All Classes
- Time is Valuable
- Materials are Valuable
- Interviewed Faculty Teaching Larger Sections
- Support Controlling Costs & Improving Transparency





# 4. University Response – Underway

- Some Solutions Underway
- *Cost of Books Policy*
  - “ETSU will adopt practices that minimize the cost of textbooks and ancillary course materials, while maintaining quality of education and academic freedom.”





# 4. University Response – Underway

## 4.A. Transparency

- Bookstore

- Can share data
- Need the data

- Bursar & Financial Aid: Cost Estimates

- Registrar: Syllabi Bank







# 4. University Response – Underway

## 4. B. Addressing Liability and Privacy

- Limited
- No University-Level Oversight
- Faculty have free reign





# 4. University Response – Underway

## 4. C. Supporting Affordability

### – No-Cost Instructional Materials

- Faculty Provided or Created
- Library Resources
- Open Education Resources

### – Financial Supports for Students

- Aid refunds
- One-Time Loans
- Scholarships



# 5. The University Response: What is Recommended





# 5.A. To Provide Transparency

**1 of 4. Use the Bookstore's Follett *Discovery* textbook adoption center as one information clearinghouse for all instructional materials**





# 5.A. To Provide Transparency

**2 of 4. Support, promote, and expand the Registrar's Course Syllabi Bank project to eventually include every course syllabus**



# 5.A. To Provide Transparency

**3 of 4. Devise workflows to capture textbook information, including costs, and use to populate textbook data fields already in Banner.**



# 5.A. To Provide Transparency

**4 of 4. Incorporate Banner textbook data, including cost information, into the university's cost calculation services managed by the Bursar and Financial Aid.**





## 5.B. To Address Liability and Privacy

**1 of 1. Prior to the adoption of e-learning environments, University Counsel office can vet course material subscription agreements to provide oversight of liability and privacy**







# 5. C. To Support Affordability

## 1 of 5. Support Open Education Resources





# 5. C. To Support Affordability

**2 of 5. Leverage Library licenses and collections to provide e-resources, at no additional cost, to students**





# 5. C. To Support Affordability

**3 of 5. Explore opportunities to incorporate the cost of required instructional materials into tuition and fees**





## 5. C. To Support Affordability

**4 of 5. As stipulated in the university's *Cost of Books* policy, incorporate the cost of instruction materials into the faculty's selection process**





# 5. C. To Support Affordability

**5 of 5. Participate in THEC's Tennessee Textbook Affordability Task Force**





# 5. D. To Provide Administrative Support

**1 of 3. Provide regular data and reports supporting proactive assessment and decision making regarding instructional materials selection**





# 5. D. To Provide Administrative Support

**2 of 3. Provide an academic & administrative 'home' for this issue**



# 5. D. To Provide Administrative Support

**3 of 3. 3. Incorporate transparency and cost-conscious materials selection within new program development and course review processes**





# Membership

- Administration – David Atkins (convener)
- Center for Teaching Excellence – Phil Smith
- Council of Chairs – Dr. Joe Bidwell
- Business & Finance – David Smith
- Faculty – Drs. Bill Flora & Donna Cherry\*
- Library – Ashley Sergiadis
- ITS– Myra Jones
- SGA – Tiffany Cook
- Student Life & Engagement – Dr. Jeffery Howard\*
- Testing Center – Eric Hunt\* (\* joined Winter '19/'20)



# Discussion

