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Institutional Surveys Redux: Reassessing Student and Faculty Responses on Course Materials during Covid-19

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Project Overview

The 2018 surveys were conducted during the start of the university's OER initiative and was intended to inform the OER committee on needed support for students and faculty.

The goal of re-running the surveys in 2021 was to see what, if anything had changed over 3 years in terms of student attitudes toward textbook costs and faculty awareness and use of OER.

Context

- Created the surveys for 2017-18 SPARC Open Ed Leadership capstone project
- Distributed identical surveys in 2018 and 2021 via the Provost Office
- Student response rate 2021: 368/3,298 (2,353 UG, 946 G) 11.15%
(4.2 % higher than 2018)
- Faculty response rate 2021: 127/800 15.87%
(1.8% lower than 2021)

2021 Student Results

56.97% agree textbook costs have become a serious affordability issue.

Top 3 textbook cost implications

23% get a poor grade
19% take fewer courses
18% don't register for a course

Top 3 measures to reduce costs

28% buy books from place other than bookstore
25% read only chapters needed online,
15% rent printed textbooks

2021 Faculty Results

21% very aware
32% aware
23% somewhat aware
16% have heard of them, 8% not aware

Top 3 free to students materials used in curriculum:

24% self-created material
18% adopted material
17% library resources

Top 3 barriers

19% Difficult to find what I need
17% Lack of resources for my subject
15% Not high quality

2021 and 2018 Responses Comparisons

- Students are similarly negatively impacted by course material costs
- Students report access codes costs as more of a reported barrier in 2021
- More students are paying in the \$201-300 range for materials, 49% pay \$101 and above for material costs other than textbooks
- Top 3 faculty barriers are the same
- Faculty are both 3x more aware of and use or likely to use OER

Strengths and Weaknesses

- + Provides guidance for campus OER Committee, able to recruit members
- + Surveys and results generate visibility of OER initiative with support from Provost Office
- + Student quotes are powerful, created infographics for promotion
- + Compare with national survey results
- Could not do a true statistical comparison between the years

Survey Instruments

[Student survey questions](#)
[Faculty survey questions](#)



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