

Good afternoon, I'm Amie Freeman, one of your university librarians. I'm here with Mr. Parkins and Dr. Okane to talk about a few of the ways that you can provide a more affordable education for your students. For those you who have heard me speak before on affordable learning, thanks for your patience—I promise to be quick. Are most of you familiar with open educational resources? Briefly, open educational resources are course materials that are available to your students at no costs. Not only are they 100% free, but they can be modified to suit your needs, shared in any way you want, and your students can keep them as long as they'd like. Most of these are funded by grants and are written, edited, and peer-reviewed by faculty experts.

I work a lot with open educational resources, or OER, and usually when I talk to people about affordable resources, I hear some common themes:

You all care very much about affordable learning. And you also care about your teaching. You want high-quality, customized materials that are a perfect match for your course. This is what you need to get your jobs done. But one thing most faculty don't have is time to sort through these resources, determine if they were created by a reputable project, uncover whether the materials are truly open, or make sure they fit the curriculum of your class perfectly. This is where all of us here today can help.

At the library, we recognize the phenomenal work that you do for the university and your students. We understand and appreciate the extraordinary effort and time that it takes to balance teaching, service, and research. Simply put, we know that you don't have any spare time.

The library exists to support the University, and especially our faculty. We've put a lot of thought into how we can best assist you in locating the course materials, including open educational resources, that best suit your curriculum and allow you the academic freedom to teach your class with the materials of your choice.

If you're at a point where you're ready to work on revising, updating, or creating a new course, we're here to help you.

We want you to teach exactly what you want to teach at the right price, and we want to enable you to do this by providing teaching support services that can alleviate your significant time burdens and address other important issues, like customization and copyright concerns.

One of our most valued services is e-reserves, which provides library support for course materials in Blackboard. Send us your syllabus, and we'll find the resources that you've selected and do our absolute best to secure those that we don't already own. We regularly purchase the teaching resources that you need for your classes—e-books, articles, chapters, even streaming videos. We'll handle all of the copyright concerns, and put everything into Blackboard directly for you. It's comparable to a course pack service in that it's absolutely no work on your end and doesn't require you to change any of the materials that you already use—it just makes them more accessible to your students. This service is completely free for both you and your students.

Now, we're excited to say that we've taken this service one step further. We offer a syllabus review for open and free resources. All you need to do is to email me directly or submit your syllabus through the library OER guide. We'll review your resources and textbooks that you use for comparable high quality, customizable, and completely free materials that best support your teaching needs. Essentially, we're hoping to remove the time burden of locating and modifying your course materials for you so that you

can concentrate on your other obligations. If you need additional help integrating these free resources into your classroom, we've partnered with the Center for Teaching Excellence to provide instructional design support at no cost.

We also sponsor an annual grant program, the SCoer! award, that rewards you for converting to a no-cost course. Our 13 winners have worked with librarians to transform one of their classes from traditional course materials to openly available or library licensed resources. Winners are given a \$500 award. We'll open applications on January 16th through May 1st and encourage you to apply.

I also know that a lot of you have already taken steps to save your students money. We believe that you should be recognized for your efforts, and that's why we administer the Professors for Student Affordability distinction that Student Government created earlier this year. If you're already using an OER or are aware of colleagues who are, we'd love to hear about it! Just fill out the nomination form available from the library's OER guide.

We've already seen substantial cost-savings for students as a result of this affordable learning initiative. Over the past three years, students have saved well over \$250,000 through the use of OER and other free course materials. Professors teaching with free resources unsurprisingly report better course evaluations and enjoy the customization available to them through the use of OER.

No matter which path you take, whether you choose to go through the library, the low-cost courseware options provided through the bookstore you'll hear about in a moment, or even to create your own OER, reducing or eliminating course costs is one of the best ways to promote student success in the classroom. You're here to support your students. We're here to make that happen.