

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty and Adjunct Faculty

From: Kenneth G. Furton, Provost and Executive Vice President

Date: November 27, 2017

Re: Adopting free and low-cost textbooks

In our ongoing efforts to minimize financial expenditures and optimize progress to graduation for our students, I am calling upon faculty to consider adopting free and low-cost textbooks. Our students are faced with substantial financial responsibilities and we want to make course materials as affordable as possible to ease the burden.

There is a wealth of Open Educational Resources (OER) available and a good starting point is the Library's guide on [Open Textbooks](#). The guide explains open access, how to select an open textbook, the benefits to students, FIU library options, and even open access publishing. For a personal consultation, you may contact your Instructional Designer or one of our FIU Library contacts, Valerie Boulos, Head, Collection Development & Resource Access at vboulos@fiu.edu or Sarah J. Hammill, Business & Online Learning Librarian at hammills@fiu.edu.

While there are multiple [Open Access Initiatives](#) underway, our recent [partnership with OpenStax](#), spearheaded by FIU Online, further advances our efforts to promote affordable textbook options. OpenStax, a non-profit based at Rice University, is one provider of openly licensed and peer-reviewed textbooks (currently [over 30 titles](#)) and other learning resources and completely free to use. While students will pay \$0.00 for using these books, for those who prefer to obtain a print version, students can choose to have the books printed and bound at the FIU bookstore for a fraction of the regular textbook cost. I recognize that OER, like those offered by OpenStax, may not be appropriate for every course and I only ask that you consider them as an option.

I want to thank those of you who have already taken action and have adopted low-cost and even free course materials. The FIU Online [Affordability Counts](#) initiative awards

courses with materials costing students \$60 or less an honor badge for affordability. Over 150 courses have received this honor badge. If you would like to earn this honor badge for your course, I encourage you to reach out to the Affordability Counts group via email at lowcost@fiu.edu. Group members are available to answer questions, or conduct presentations, and can help you through the adoption process.

I also take this opportunity to thank the FIU Textbook Affordability Task Force, FIU Libraries and FIU Online for spearheading our institution-wide efforts to make education more affordable.

We look forward to working with you to maximize the success of our students.