University of Texas System

Textbook Affordability Initiative

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Texas OER Summit

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The University of Texas System

- 8 academic universities and 6 health institutions

- Universities:
  - 1 Flagship; 2 Top Tier Research; 4 ERUs; 2 comprehensives
  - 5 HSIs

- 225,780 students, including over 178,000 undergraduates

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Who are our students and how are they succeeding?

Snapshot of UT System students

- For Fall 2017:
  - 51% of all UT System students—and 57% of undergraduates—are *underrepresented minority* students
  - and 60% of all degrees awarded to undergraduates were to URMs
  - 40% were Hispanic
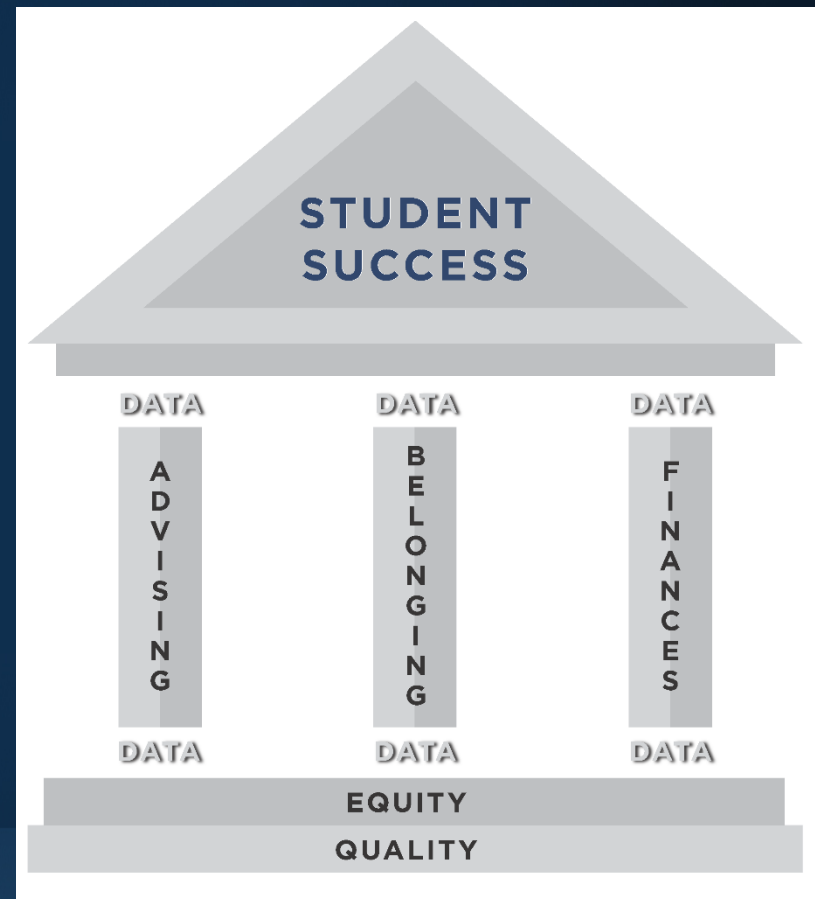 - 29% were White
  - 7% were African-American

  Across our 8 academic universities:
  - Percent of students who received Pell ranges from 23.6% to 61.8%
  - 4-year graduation rates range from 18.2 to almost 70%
  - 6-year graduation rates range from 39.4% to 82.8%

Role of OER in UT System Student Success Initiatives

- Part of overall systemwide student success initiatives

- Student Success work is organized around commitments to students in the areas of Finances, Advising and Belonging: the 3 pillars

- Distributed leadership and system-institution collaboration towards collective impact and shared ownership of student success

- Library Directors are playing a lead role through focus on textbook affordability and OER

UT System Institutional Leadership on OER

University of Texas at San Antonio:

- Three faculty cohorts of OER grant recipients (n=49) .

- High impact courses with 100% OER adoption: College Algebra, Math for Business, Biosciences I and II.

- Sales approach, talking points for FAQs

- Raising external $$$ to fund grant(donors/crowdfunding).

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UT System Institutional Leadership on OER

- *UT Arlington* – UTA CARES or Coalition for Alternative Resources in Education for Students focused on grants for adoption, scaling and innovation of OER.

- *UT Austin* – Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning (one of 16 national centers)

- *UT Tyler* – Grants to faculty to develop open textbooks in core courses.

- System Funding to support OER work at UTSA and UT Tyler.

Textbook Affordability Initiative

- Developed by UT System Library Directors

- Represents convergence of many stakeholders within the UT System:
  - Student governance groups
  - UT System Finances Affinity Group
  - Academic Provosts
  - Faculty Champions

- Part of proposal submitted to previous chancellor at his request

- Shared with new chancellor

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Textbook Affordability Initiative

YEAR 1: DISCOVER, DESIGN AND SEED CAPACITY	YEAR 2: CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH INCENTIVES, PILOTS AND PROF. DEV.	YEAR 3: SCALE AND SUSTAIN
Form the UT System Textbook Affordability Advisory Council	Implement grant programs	Identify pilot projects with high ROI that scale
Conduct an environmental scan of OER environment and raise awareness of system activities	Director to coordinate work on cost reduction strategies, developing practice inventory and policy review	Create a system-wide sustainability plan for OER
Hire OER Director, establish campus OER liaisons	Launch OER website and marketing	Conduct summative assessment of initiative outcomes, including overall adoption of OER and low-cost textbook initiatives, return on investment for funded projects and Director position, and efficacy of Advisory Council and awareness campaign
Develop and issue RFP for two grant programs, the OER Momentum Fund and the Textbook Affordability Scale-up Fund, to facilitate adoption of OER and low-cost textbook options	Offer system-wide professional development programming	
	Assess outcomes of pilots	

Textbook Affordability Initiative

KEY OUTCOMES

Decrease in the average amount of money spent by students on textbooks each semester

Reduction in the number of courses offered at UT institutions that require a purchased textbook

Decrease in the number of students who do not have access to required course materials

Decrease in the number of students who drop out of college due to financial hardship

UT System Textbook Affordability Council

- Convene and support institutional leaders and efforts to reduce costs of textbooks to students

- Focus on OER adoption and development

- Assess and monitor ROI and other metrics

- Seek funding to support institutional expansion

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Thank you!

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