

## WRLC Steering Committee | Textbook Affordability Working Group 2022- 2023 Report

In addition to assigned SC initiatives, TAWG focused on onboarding six new members. While continuing to manage the ongoing Open Textbook Library \$200 stipend review program, members launched the inaugural \$2,000 Faculty Course Transformation grant program. The team also built a corresponding applicant portal to manage and track the grant proposal process and updated the website, adding a Student OER Advocacy Toolkit facet and Creative Commons Licensing resources. TAWG hosted nine webinars and is currently planning to submit a proposal to present at the 2023 WRLC Annual Conference.

The \$2,000 Faculty Course Transformation Grant pilot program's Call for Proposals was officially launched on January 31, 2023. Similar to existing higher education OER grant programs that were interviewed to inform TAWG's program, the initial submitted proposal included tiered awards for OER Adoption, Adaptation and Creation. As advised by fellow OER program staff, Adapt and Create grants would require an increased amount of administrative support and resources. These costs included a number of the program's largest budget line items: the OEN Commons repository, part-time administrative staff, a publishing platform, and faculty publishing instruction courses. Concerns regarding the proposal's total expenditure versus potential ROI over the five year period were raised by the Library Directors Council. In response to these concerns, the proposal and all corresponding policy, procedural and supporting documentation were redrafted. The updated program now focuses exclusively on OER Adoption and the ratio of student savings to program expenditure has improved from 1.98 to 2.38.

Proposals	AU	CU	GA	GM	GT	GW	HU	MU	UDC	Total
Submitted	7	2	2	0	0	3	6	5	5	30
Completed	2	1	1	0	0	1	4	3	1	13

Of the 15 grants available, the selection committee has awarded nine proposals that include a variety of subjects, course levels, and project plans. An additional four proposals showed significant promise and the applicants will be provided an opportunity to review their proposal, with the assistance of their TAWG representative, and resubmit for consideration. Awardees will be announced on April 24, 2023. The estimated textbook savings, including both the awarded and provisional proposals, for the 2023- 2024 academic year is \$124,018.00 with a 4.76 ratio of student savings to program expenditure.

TAWG and the grant program selection committee are pleased with the grant's progress and have identified areas for improvement and increased participation in the second year of the pilot program. Mandatory webinar attendance eligibility requirement has already been removed and interested candidates are encouraged to view a past recording and partner with their campus TAWG representative. Additionally, the group will be investigating OER opportunities and assistance for the applicants that did not complete their proposal submissions, national grant opportunities to support future OER programming efforts, open pedagogical professional development for program participants, and plans to continue to refine the Open@WRLC website including creating handouts, posters and other documentation that will correspond with webinars and be available for download.

By far, a clear opportunity for improving participation in the next year of the pilot program is in marketing and raising campus awareness. WRLC newsletter articles and direct emails from TAWG members overwhelmingly accounted for the wealth of marketing efforts. American University provided specially designed announcement flyers and postcards to TAWG and the material was used in-house at a few of the participating libraries. None of the partnering institutions initiated campus-level marketing support. As shared in the grant's proposal, similar to OER campus programs at fellow consortia, future programming success will depend on campus-level marketing support and campaigns to raise awareness and increase participation.