

Senate Executive Committee Agenda  
December 10, 2017 at 2:00 PM in Lib 326

1. Middle States Self-Study Update (Roberta Harvey and Jeff Bonfield)
2. Parental Leave Task Force Report (separate file, Kaitlin Mallouk)
3. Budget update (Chris Simons)
4. Textbook Alternative Program (page 2)
5. Senate statement on bill to tax tuition waivers for graduate students
6. New location for Senate Exec meetings: Library 404

## **Rowan University Textbook Alternative Program (TAP)** *Tapping into Rowan's resources to drive down the cost of course materials*

### **Program Overview:**

The high cost of course materials is an obstacle to affordability and success for many Rowan students, especially since these costs are typically paid out-of-pocket. Students are often faced with the dilemma of choosing to pay for course materials or for other needs like housing and food. In a spring 2016 survey of undergraduate students at Rowan, 37% of respondents indicated that they had not purchased all of their course materials, with cost as the most common reason given (85%). This is particularly troubling since over 92% of faculty respondents at Rowan in a spring 2017 survey indicated that not purchasing course materials could negatively impact student success "a great deal" (63.2%) or "somewhat" (28.9%).

### **Program Goals:**

(1) raise awareness of the rising cost of course materials; (2) create a structure to support efforts by faculty and departments to drive down the cost of course materials.

Rowan University's Affordability Task Force is proposing to issue five \$2,000 grants to faculty members seeking to redesign their course materials with the use of library, free, and open resources that would lower the cost of those materials for Rowan students. One example of implementing alternative course materials is in the *Rowan 101: College Success* course, which first began using an Open Education Resource (OER) in fall 2016, in lieu of a traditional textbook. In three semesters, this project has saved Rowan students an estimated \$43,296.

The Textbook Alternative Program (TAP) would support efforts by faculty and departments to reduce the cost of the materials in their course(s). This project is modeled after similar initiatives at several of our peer institutions, including [Temple University](#) and [Rutgers University](#). To fund the \$10,000 needed for five faculty grants in this initial year, we will use the \$2000 award that the Affordability Task Force received for winning the [Best Practices award](#) at the National Symposium on Student Retention, and are seeking \$8,000 of internal funding to establish this program. We will explore external funding opportunities in the future.

### **Application Process and Criteria:**

Interested faculty members would complete an application indicating their plan of action, including the overall change in course materials, timeline for the project, total number of students (and sections) potentially impacted, total dollars saved by students, and the sustainability of the proposal. The TAP webpage (in development) outlines the program and application criteria and will highlight the award recipients. The selection committee would include a diverse group of faculty and staff including representatives from the Faculty Center, Campbell Library, and University Senate.

### **TAP Timeline for 2018-2019:**

January 2018 – "Coming Soon" announcements about TAP that includes application information

February 1, 2018 – Begin publicizing the Program and accepting applications

March 15, 2018 – Deadline for applications

April 1, 2018 - Grant recipients are notified

August 1, 2018 - Mid-point meeting and first half of the grant money awarded

December 1, 2018 – Deadline for faculty project; other half of the grant money awarded

**Sponsored by:** Rowan University Senate, Rowan University Libraries, Student Government Association, Affordability Task Force, and Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning