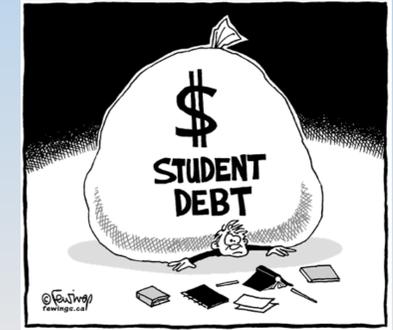




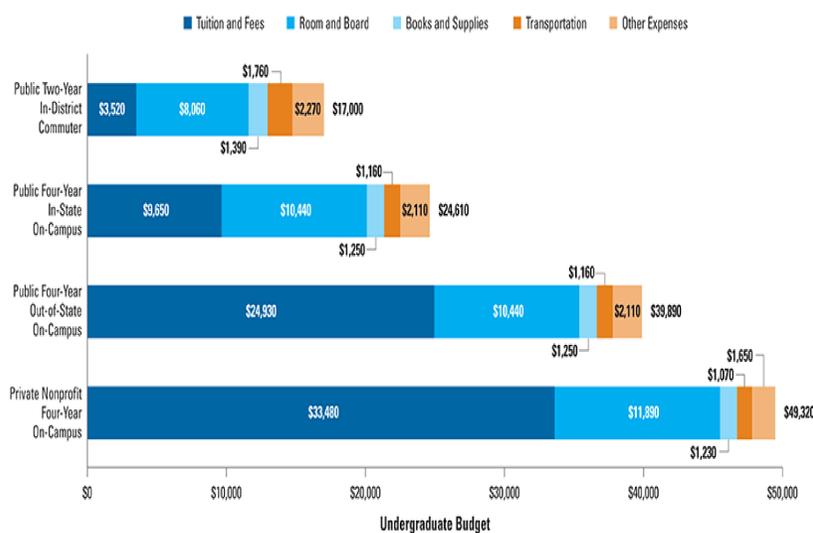
The Crazy Cost of Books- And What Faculty Can Do About It

Melissa DeRosia, Department of Social Sciences



Average Estimated Full-Time Undergraduate Budgets (Enrollment-Weighted) by Sector, 2016-17

*www.trends.collegeboard.org

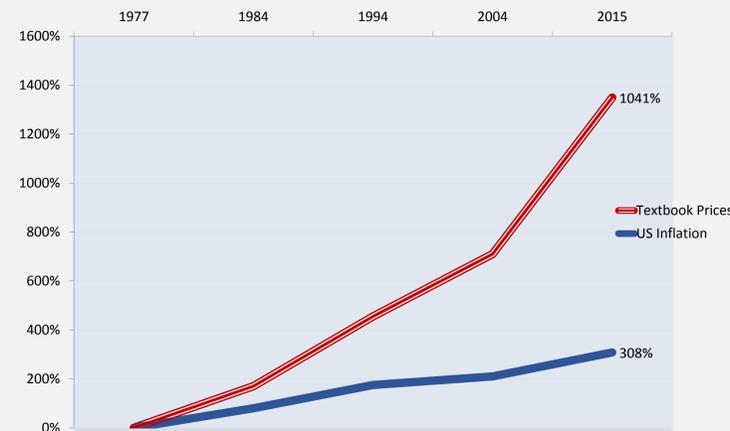


Open Educational Resources (OERs) are any educational materials that are either in the public domain or introduced with an open license.

Faculty, or anyone else, can legally use, copy, reprint and/or adapt these resources at no cost. OERs can include syllabi, textbooks, videos, lecture notes, assignments and more.

*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics data, between 1977 and 2015, textbook prices increased more than 3 times the rate of overall U.S. inflation



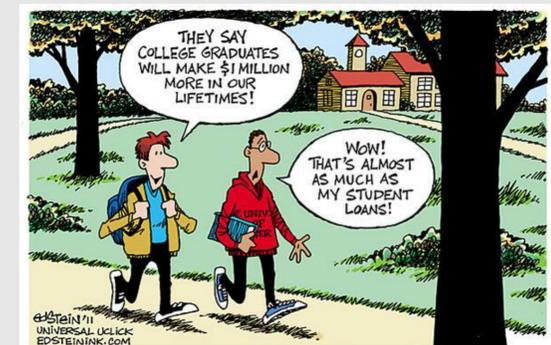
Michigan	Public 4-Year Institutions and Private Non-Profit 4-Year Institutions	
	Average Debt	Proportion with Debt
State Average	\$30,045	63%
Ferris State University	\$35,660	82%

*The Institute for College Access & Success

Book Buying Blues

- Faculty often have complete control over the textbooks they assign and are not always "sensitive to cost".
- Publishers make little or no money from used book sales so they often release new editions every two years, or even more frequently, with very little change to the material.
- Between 2007 and 2014, the average price of a new textbook rose from \$57 to \$82.
*the National Association of College Stores
- Out of more than 2,000 students surveyed, 65% said they did not buy a textbook at some point during college because of the cost. Of those, 94% said this choice made them concerned about their grade.
*U.S. PIRG Education Fund and the Student PIRGs

- Studies done at Virginia State University and Houston Community College showed that students who used OERs rather than traditional textbooks had higher grades and lower withdrawal rates.
*Open Education Fact Sheet
- Students save an average of more than \$100 per course, per semester when assigned an OER rather than a traditional textbook.
*Open Textbooks: The Billion Dollar Solution. Student PIRGs (2015).
- By using OERs, faculty can select the best material from a variety of sources, expanding flexibility and options to better meet their teaching and learning goals.



The high price of textbooks contributes to the debt burden of our students. They are "captive consumers," dependent on the choices of administrators and faculty. The use of **OERs** in place of comparable textbooks can play an important role in lowering the overall cost of higher education to students.