Garrett College Learning Commons

High Cost of Text Books

Students indicated in the Student Experience report the cost of books is too high. Other community colleges in the state and region have begun offering Z degree programs. These programs solely utilize open educational resources. Therefore, students entering into one of these programs know the cost of resources and materials will be minimal. Garrett College should also take advantage of open educational resources and market this to our current and future students.

The Student Experience Committee recommends the following:

1. Examine the possibility of the bookstore renting books.
2. Develop a campus-wide OER initiative beginning with one program (Math or Science).
3. Create a LibGuide presented to Faculty on how to locate and select applicable OERs.
4. Create an online platform to collect OER materials to prevent the loss of the materials in the future.
5. Configure Jenzabar to allow faculty to enter applicable textbook information.
6. Minimize the use of costly code-driven supplemental resources (MyMathLab, Pearson, Cengage, etc.), particularly for developmental coursework.

Fall 18/19, GC began developing a campus-wide OER initiative. The learning commons developed an open education resources library guide and provided a training to faculty. Science faculty began utilizing OER's in courses such as biology and chemistry. To date the initiative has saved students over $60,000.

Libguides are online web pages created by librarians to help patrons perform various tasks, such as using library resources or doing research. Libguides are provided through the web application developer Springshare. You can find more information about libguides and how they work at COM's libguide toolbox, or at Springshare's website.

The **Garrett College Library & Learning Commons** is a welcoming, flexible research and learning environment that provides convenient access to academic support services, study spaces, and technology in order to promote collaboration and inspire academic excellence.

1 STRATEGIC PLAN STATES FORM A LEARNING COMMONS

2 BEGIN EXPANSION OF OERS AND CREATE AN OER INITIATIVE
As recommended by Student Experience Committee and Report

3 LIBRARY PURCHASES LIBGUIDES

4 CREATE AN OER LIBGUIDE

5 PRESENT LIBGUIDE AND OER RESOURCES TO FACULTY