

MYTH: Washington's 4-year faculty aren't ready for OER.

In a 2013 Report, 95 percent of faculty at four-year colleges and universities allowed mobile devices in the classroom. In response to that faculty-led trend, educational content providers have increasingly worked to develop [less expensive] products for these platforms.¹

MYTH: Washington's 4-year faculty are resistant to OER.

It's true that the earliest adopters of online education resources were brave community college faculty, especially because the \$1200 spent on books and supplies every semester was a larger portion of each student's overall education expenses. Four-year faculty initially resisted for a lot of reasons, especially when early online textbook alternatives suffered from a lack of editing quality. Over the last decade, however, improvements in technology and editing standards have ignited faculty interest in OER within state schools and private 4-year institutions.²

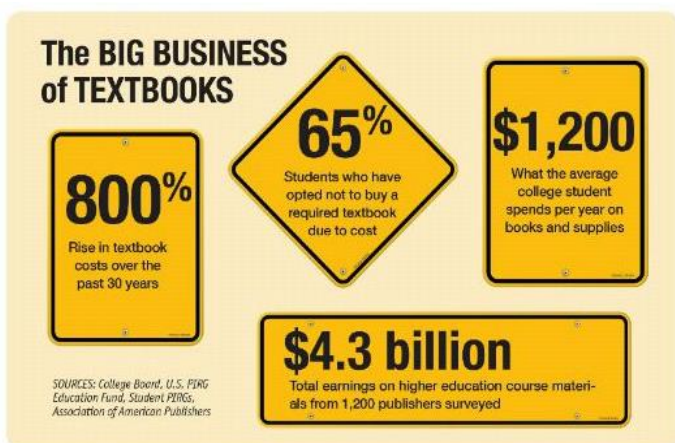
MYTH: Washington's 4-year faculty avoid OER because it would jeopardize their ability to author textbooks they then require their own students to purchase--with royalties accruing to the faculty author.

In September of 2008, the Washington State Ethics Board ruled that "a [public baccalaureate] faculty author cannot make a profit on the sale of his textbooks to his students at his own educational institution."

MYTH: Washington's 4-year faculty have no opportunity to learn about OER or gain disciplinary support for alternative textbooks.

Nearly every discipline now offers OER pre-conference workshops at national and regional disciplinary meetings.

MYTH: Washington's 4-year faculty need monetary incentives to adopt less expensive textbook alternatives for their courses.



For decades, faculty were concerned that our students weren't *reading* the assigned textbooks. Over the last decade, however, we realized that a significant portion of our students weren't even *buying* the assigned textbook. We have been coming up with stop-gap solutions for many years, including buying extra books to put on reserve in the library and assigning and loaning out less-expensive older editions for student use. We've gotten very clever about ways to help our students save money on educational resources and we take a lot of time and effort every term to get it done.

FACT: Washington's 4-year faculty urgently need designated release time to further develop OER for our students—and save them millions in the process.

Every public baccalaureate in our state can already boast of faculty OER champions and leaders ready to develop a critical mass on each campus. We are ready and willing and able.

¹ SIIA's *U.S. Educational Technology Market: Higher Education Report* (2013)

² <http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/18/living/open-textbooks-online-education-resources/index.html>