The Open Education Initiative at UMass Amherst

Alternatives to high-cost textbooks

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Goals of OEI

- To provide small incentive grants to faculty to adopt alternatives to high-cost textbooks
  - Funded by Provost and University Libraries

- To provide support infrastructure for creation and/or use of open educational resources

- Partners
  - Academic Computing
  - Center for Teaching and Faculty Development
  - University Libraries
Faculty Proposal Development

- Basic course information
- List current textbook(s) and cost, plus number of students
- Narrative (500 words)
- ID alternative sources-workshop, liaisons
- Evaluation of course – outcomes, value of alternative resources, sustainability
- Start date-Fall 11/Spring 12; Fall 12/Spring 13
Summary of Rounds One and Two

• Total investment of $26,000
  o $11,000 in Round one, $15,000 in Round two

• Grants awarded to 21 faculty members teaching 26 courses
  o 8 faculty and 11 courses in Round one, 13 faculty and 15 courses in Round two

• Total of 1,616 students affected
  o Average savings of ~ $127 per student

• Total recurring savings of $205,500
Next Steps

- Formation of Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Open Education Resources
- OEI Round 3 Fall 2012
- Assessment during Academic Year ‘13