OER Student Forum Personal Anecdotes:

- Students spoke about having to take out loans to buy books or seek other financial aid and have to wait long periods of time for refund checks
- Purchases rack up - buying calculators, buying online books, textbooks, etc.
- Students can not complete homework because they can not afford materials
- Teachers make their students buy books they have published (which are expensive) as part of the requirement of the class
- Students spoke about paying for textbooks that they hardly ever use
- Students in language courses have to buy textbooks every year with an access code, forcing them to have to buy textbooks more frequently, even though they don’t use the actual textbook and only the access code
- Books on reserve in the library can be useful, but at times they are not (there’s a time limit placed on them/not being able to leave the library with the book to bring them home)
  - Issue for commuters with books on reserve
  - There is not enough instructions on how to access books on reserve/most students don’t know that a book is on reserve for their courses — professors either don’t have it on reserve or don’t communicate
- Some courses don’t have their textbooks on reserve or there is only one copy
- A commuter has gotten into a car accident while trying to access books on reserve
- Some students feel as if they are placing a burden on parents to help buy textbooks (especially those whose families can not afford the books)
- Students who have to wait to buy a textbook (after being well into the course) can tell the difference in their test taking (for classes that textbooks are not strictly required)
- Professors who do not allow electronic devices in classes put their students in the position of having no choice but to buy a hardcover book (which tend to be more expensive than electronic ones)
- Library website should have a list of all textbooks on reserve that students can easily access
- Professors should have a list of how to access less expensive books (possibly on syllabus)
- Students have to print out articles/readings from blackboard as well as buying textbooks (so we have to spend even more money for printing with professors who require students to bring hard copy materials to class sessions)
- Teachers should not require their students to purchase books that will not/hardly be used
- Student spoke about an experience where a professor made their students buy 3 different books in the series but they only ended up using 2 of them because the professor did not have time to get to the 3rd despite the students spending money on it and not being able to get that money back