University of Massachusetts Amherst

From the SelectedWorks of Marilyn S. Billings

March 8, 2016

The Power of Open Education: UMass Amherst's Open Education Initiative, Springboard for New Career Choices

Marilyn S Billings

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UMassAmherst

The Power of Open Education:

UMass Amherst's Open Education Initiative

Springboard for New Career Choices

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Scholarly Communication Librarian
University Libraries

SPARC MORE March 8, 2016

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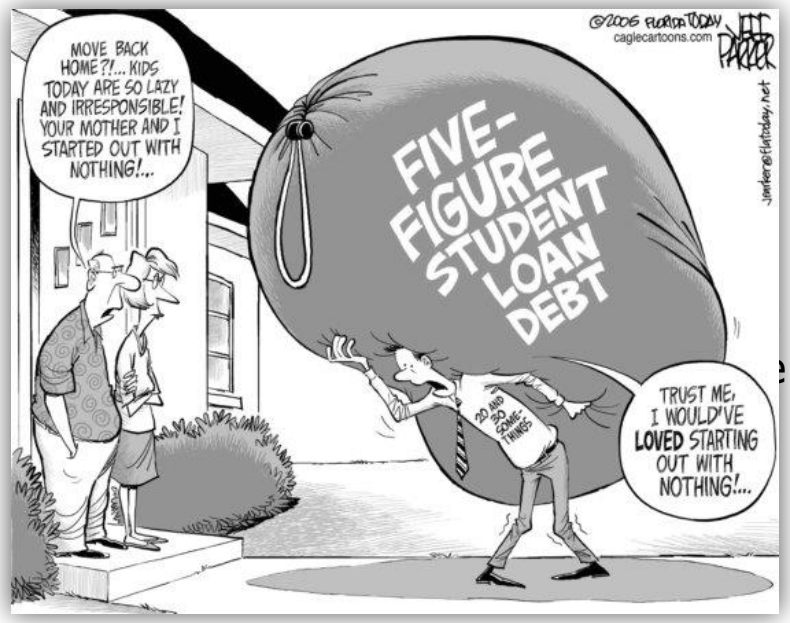
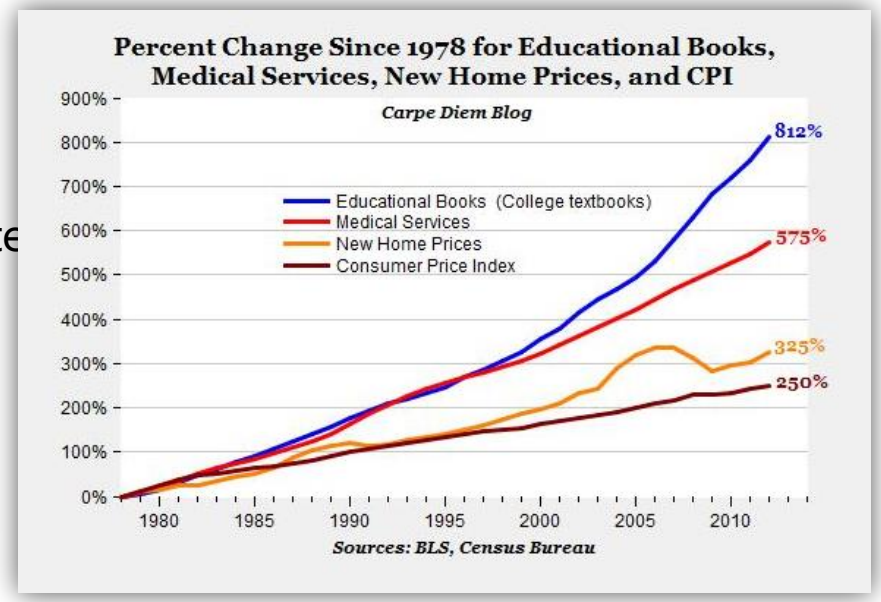
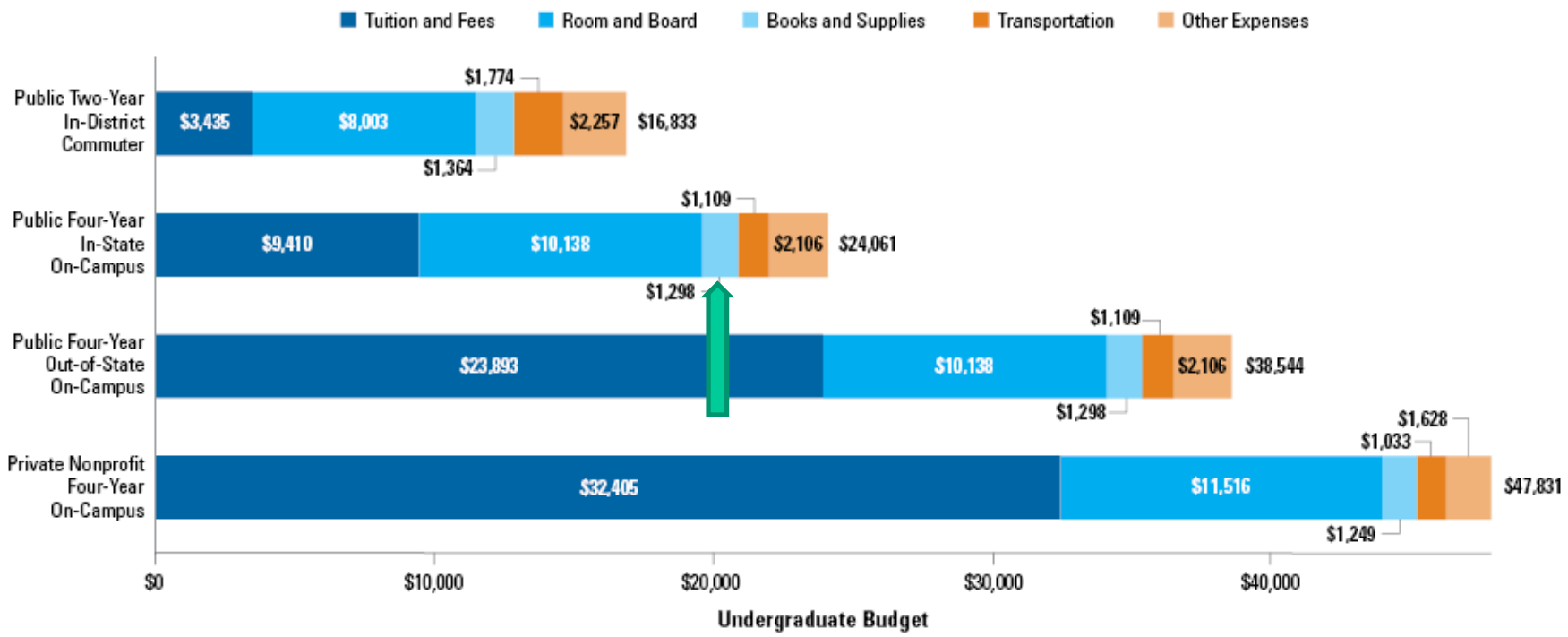
TEXTBOOK TRENDS, 30 YEARS





The high cost of commercial print textbooks is a major concern for parents, students, and even the federal government.

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES COST



Source: The College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges.

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: THE 5R FRAMEWORK

- Retain
- Reuse
- Revise
- Remix
- Redistribute

OERS INCLUDE

Curriculum

- Syllabi
- Content modules

Course materials

- Textbooks
- Assignments
- Simulations
- Learning objects
- Labs

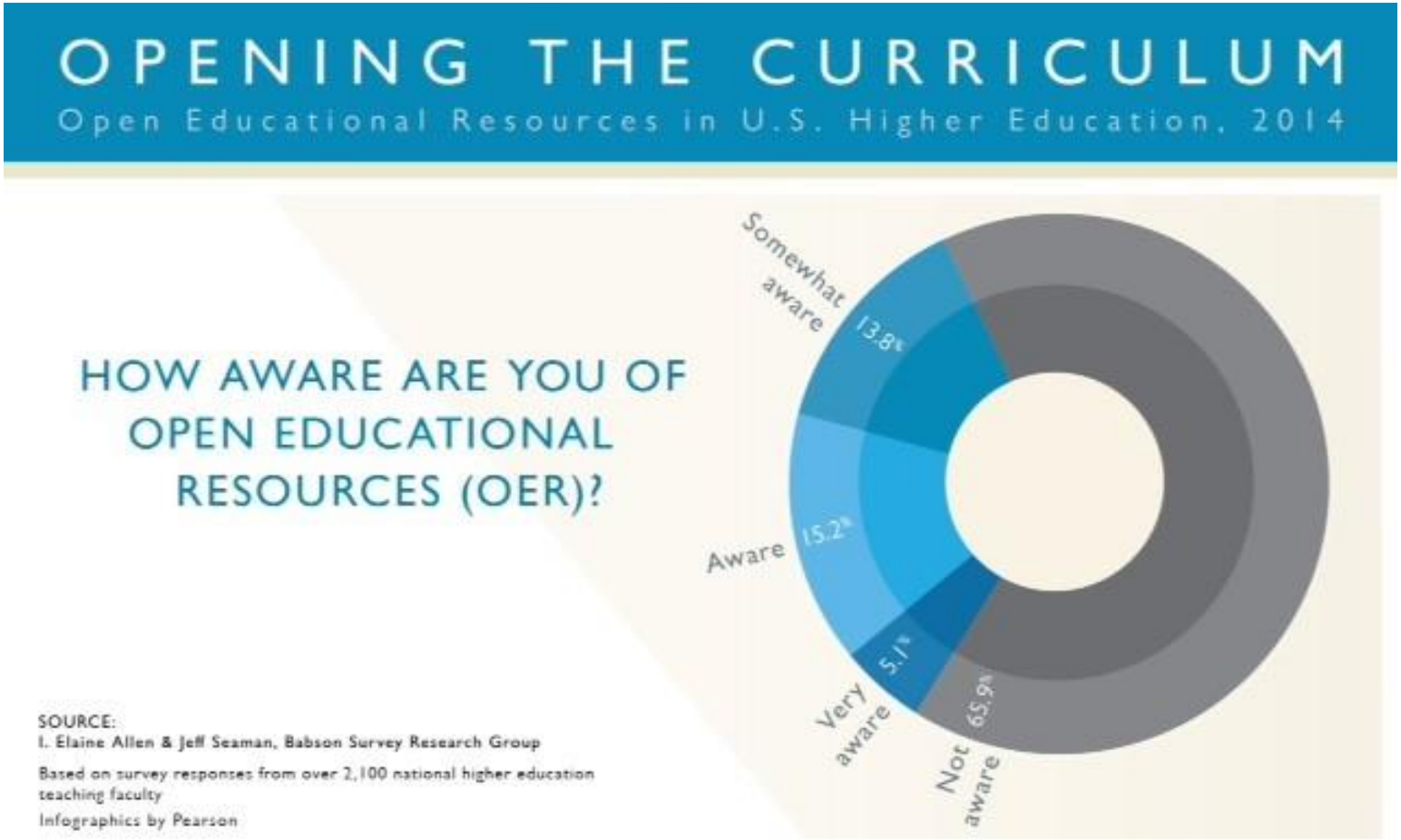
Collections

- Journal articles
- E-books
- Art galleries
- Video libraries

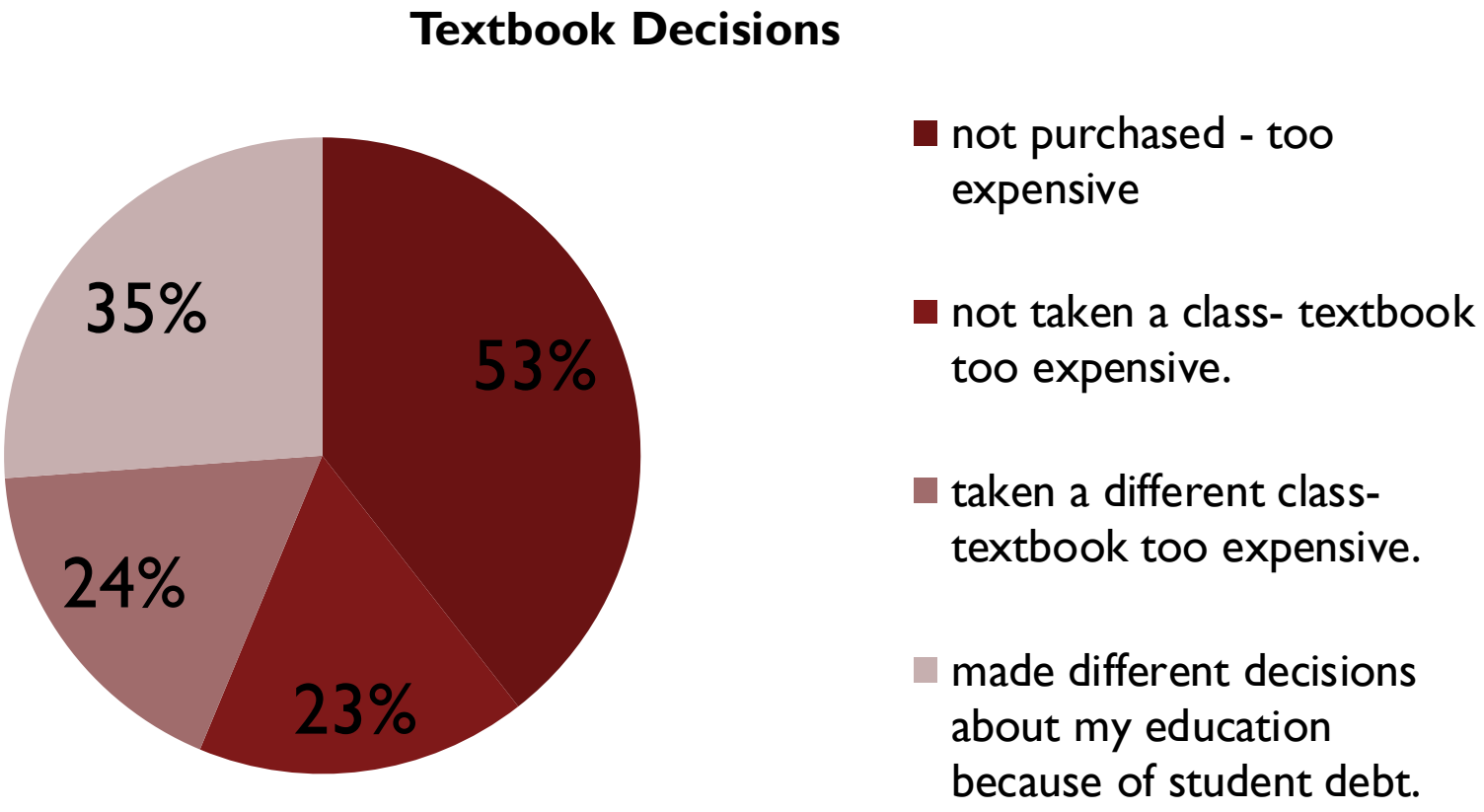
Tools

- Software
- Calculators
- Analytics

FACULTY AWARENESS



STUDENT CHOICES



2014 survey of 264 students in OEI classes

UMASS AMHERST PROFILE

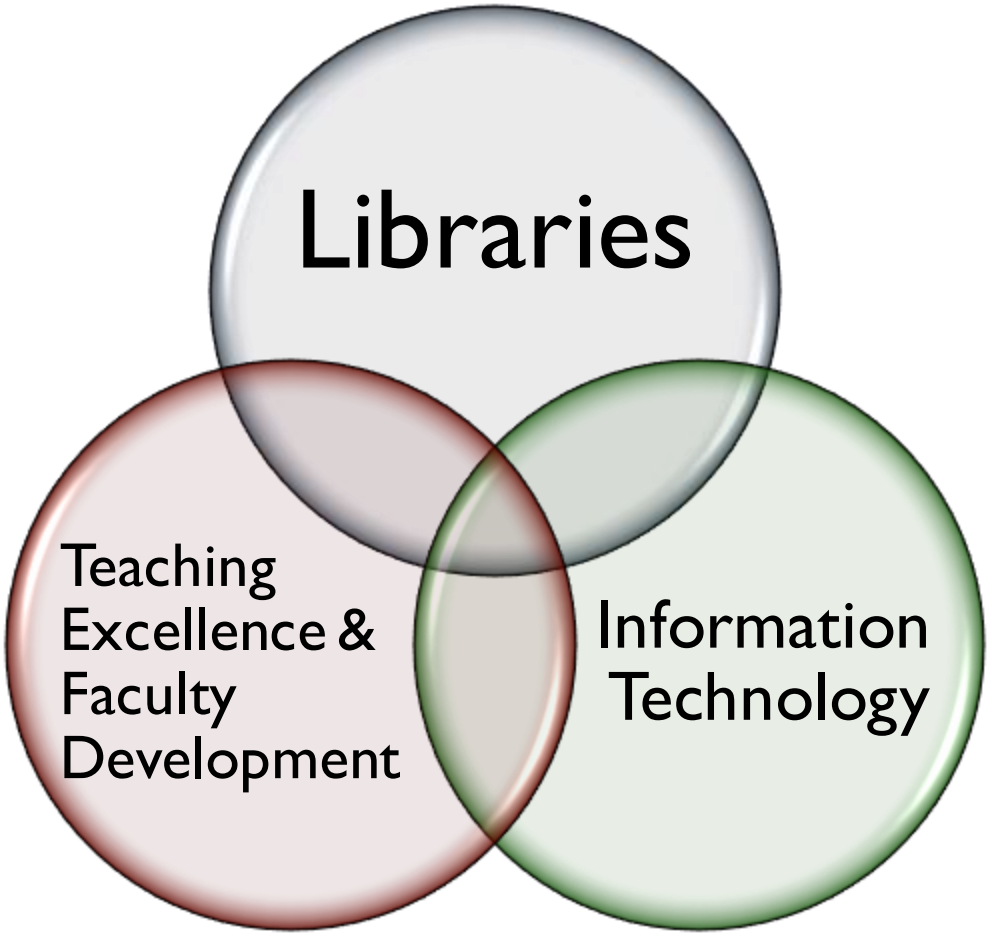
- Public Land-grant, Research Intensive University
- Over 28,000 students, 1200 faculty
- 108 bachelor's, 76 masters, 50 doctorates

SEEKING SOLUTIONS

The OEI is a faculty incentive program that encourages:

1. the creation of new teaching materials and models
2. the use of existing open (free) information resources to support student learning
3. the use of library subscription materials
4. the development of open technologies

UMASS AMHERST AT WORK



OEI FACULTY GRANT PROPOSALS

- Basic course information
  - Number of students
  - Current textbook(s) and cost
- Anticipated OER implementation date
- Narrative (500 words)
  - Outcomes
  - Sustainability
  - Challenges
  - Assessment

Photo credit: Derek Jensenaka FireChickenTA99

FACULTY SUCCESS STORIES

Carlos Gradil

- Animal Sciences 421: Fundamentals of Reproduction
- Cost Savings to date: $7,680

- Uses video to teach 3 different classes, a far superior teaching tool than text/static images

Miliann Kang

- Women's Studies 187: Gender, Sexuality and Culture
- Cost Savings to date: $8,475

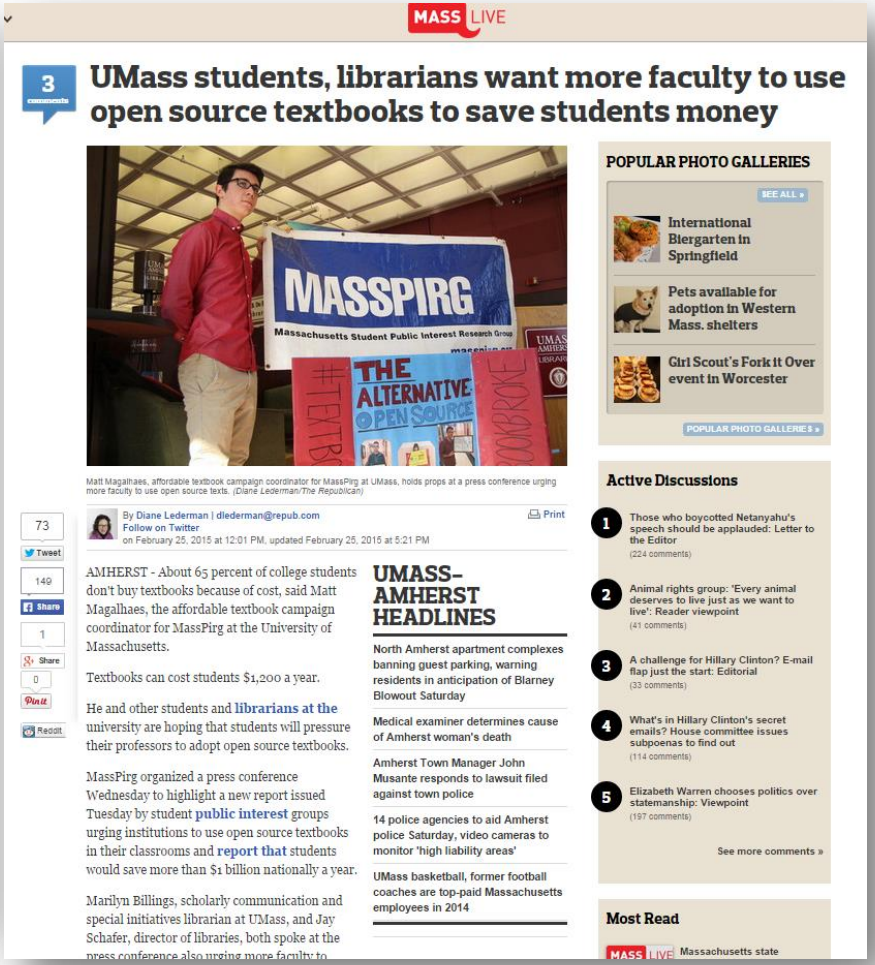
- OERs downloaded over 3,600 times, far over initial class of 300 students

Hossein Pishro-Nik

- Electrical and Computer Engineering 314: Introduction to Probability and Random Processes
- Cost Savings to date: $25,833

- Used his book in 6 courses, representing 6 times projected savings ($87,700); other
- professors are using it as well

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT



POSSIBILITIES WITH OERS

- SPARC agenda: advocacy, education, partnerships

  All things open: access, data, education, science …
- University and College missions

  Engagement, commitment to teaching & learning, student success, social justice

  Inter-office partnerships
- UMass and other successful OER programs

NEW CAREER PATHS & GOALS

- Library staff – OER librarians, liaison roles
- IT staff – new IT developments
- Teaching & Learning staff – course redevelopment

Building paths toward:

Culture of engaged faculty, staff and administrators

Framework for Student success

Questions/Discussion

Contact Information

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