

Table of Contents

Larson, Brett - #3548 - 481	1
Letter of Support	9
Proposal Narrative	10

Application Summary

Competition Details

Competition Title:	Textbook Transformation Grants, Round Fifteen (Fall 2019 - Fall 2020)
Category:	University System of Georgia
Award Cycle:	Round 15
Submission Deadline:	09/16/2019 at 11:59 PM

Application Information

Submitted By:	Brett Larson
Application ID:	3548
Application Title:	481
Date Submitted:	09/17/2019 at 8:29 AM

Personal Details

Institution Name(s):	East Georgia State College
Applicant First Name:	Brett
Applicant Last Name:	Larson
Applicant Email Address:	blarson@ega.edu
Applicant Phone Number:	478-289-2058
Primary Appointment Title:	Assistant Professor of Political Science
Submitter First Name:	Brett
Submitter Last Name:	Larson
Submitter Email Address:	blarson@ega.edu
Submitter Phone Number:	478-289-2058
Submitter Title:	478-289-2058

Application Details

Proposal Title

481

Requested Amount of Funding

25,800

Priority Category (if applicable)

Scaling Up OER

Final Semester:

Fall 2020

Course Title(s)

American Government

Course Number(s)

POLS 1101

Team Member 1 Name

Brett Larson

Team Member 1 Email

blarson@ega.edu

Team Member 2 Name

H. Lee Cheek

Team Member 2 Email

lcheek@ega.edu

Team Member 3 Name

Thomas Caiazzo

Team Member 3 Email

tcaiazzo@ega.edu

Team Member 4 Name

Daniel Mancill

Team Member 4 Email

dmancill@ega.edu

Additional Team Members (Name and email address for each)

Robert Mullins

ramullins@ega.edu

Sponsor Name

Sandra Sharman

Sponsor Title

Interim Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs

Sponsor Department

Academic and Student Affairs

Average Number of Students per Course Section Affected by Project in One Academic Year

30

Average Number of Sections Affected by Project in One Academic Year

55

Total Number of Students Affected by Project in One Academic Year

1650

Average Number of Students Affected per Summer Semester

150

Average Number of Students Affected per Fall Semester

750

Average Number of Students Affected per Spring Semester

750

Original Required Commercial Materials (title, author, price, and bookstore or retailer URL showing price)

Brett Larson's POLS 1101 classes:

Introduction to American Government, Charles Turner, BVT Publishing, \$143.99 (soft cover)*

<https://www.bvtstudents.com/government-and-history/american-government/introduction-to-american-government-10e>

Lee Cheek's POLS 1101 classes:

American Government: Institutions and Policies, James Q. Wilson, Cengage, \$249.95 (bound book)*

<https://www.cengage.com/c/american-government-essentials-edition-institutions-and-policies-16e-wilson/>

Tom Caiazzo's and Daniel Mancill's POLS 1101 classes:

Understanding American Government, Tom Caiazzo, Daniel Mancill, and Charles Turner, BVT Publishing, \$93.99 (soft cover)

<https://www.bvtstudents.com/3909?search=caiazzo>

Robert Mullins's POLS 1101 classes:

Keeping the Republic, Christine Barbour and Gerald C. Wright, Sage/CQ Press, \$130.00 (paperback)**

<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/keeping-the-republic/book259167>

*Brett Larson and Lee Cheek are recipients of a round 12 standard scale textbook transformation grant (Proposal # 381). The original required commercial materials listed above are the ones they used prior to receiving the round 12 grant.

**Robert Mullins is currently using no-cost materials. The original required commercial materials listed above are the ones he used prior to switching to free ones.

Original Total Cost per Student

\$93.99-\$249.95

Post-Project Cost per Student

\$0

Post-Project Savings per Student

\$93.99-\$249.95

Projected Total Annual Student Savings per Academic Year

\$234,933.60

Using OpenStax Textbook?

Yes

Project Goals

1. Reduce students' costs of taking POLS 1101 by using no-cost, high quality educational resources instead of cost prohibitive, traditional textbooks.
2. Increase student success rates in POLS 1101 by using no-cost, high quality educational resources.
3. Adopt and/or create no-cost educational resources that supplement existing no-cost textbooks such as American Government by Glen Krutz.

Statement of Transformation

POLS 1101 is a required course in Area E of the core curriculum for all East Georgia State College students. In one academic year, approximately 1650 students take this course. East Georgia State College's Political Science program has five full-time faculty members who each teach roughly eleven sections of POLS 1101 per academic year (five in fall semester, five in spring semester, and one in summer semester). These courses are offered in face to face and online formats. The full-time faculty use a variety of instructional materials to teach POLS 1101. Larson and Cheek are recipients of a round 12 standard scale textbook transformation grant and thus use no-cost materials. Before receiving the round 12 grant, Larson used Introduction to American Government (\$143.99) and Cheek used American Government: Institutions and Policies (\$249.95). Caiazzo and Mancill use Understanding American Government (\$93.99). Mullins currently uses no-cost educational resources, but before making the switch, he used Keeping the Republic (\$130.00).

East Georgia State College is an access institution that serves many low-income students. In East Georgia State College's service region, the median household income is \$40,216, the percent of the population living below the poverty line is 22.6, and the percent of people twenty-five or older with at least a bachelor's degree is only 16.4. These numbers compare unfavorably with statewide averages. The median household income in Georgia is \$51,037, the percent of the population living below the poverty line is 16.0, and the percent of the population with at least a bachelor's degree is 29.4 (President of East Georgia State College's 8-1-2018 Presentation Economic and Education Statistics). To remove economic barriers to education, East Georgia State College offers low tuition rates (\$92.67 per credit hour). However, the high costs of textbooks remain a serious obstacle to students. Since many students cannot afford to spend \$93.99-\$249.95 on textbooks for one class, they either delay purchasing the textbooks until after receiving their financial aid (up to a month after classes start) or do not purchase the textbooks at all. Students who delay purchasing or do not purchase the course materials cannot complete assignments and are at high risk of failing the class.

This project will redesign all sections of POLS 1101 taught by full-time political science faculty to use no-cost instructional materials instead of cost prohibitive, traditional textbooks. The primary textbook for the redesigned course will be American Government by Glen Krutz, which is a no-cost, open educational resource. Also, this project will adopt and/or create no-cost educational resources to supplement the Krutz text such as primary sources, book chapters, journal articles, newspaper articles, videos, lecture notes, and PowerPoint slides. Since all resources will be available in electronic formats, instructors can use them in face to face, hybrid, and online classes.

This project will benefit East Georgia State College's students in several ways. First, it will reduce each student's cost of taking POLS 1101 from \$93.99-\$249.95 to \$0. Over one academic year, this project will save students taking the course approximately \$234,933.60. Second, it will increase student success rates in POLS 1101. One key reason students fail courses at East Georgia State College is they do not buy the textbooks. The excessive cost of textbooks is one major reason for why students do not buy them. Since this project will reduce the cost of instructional materials to \$0, it will remove financial obstacles to students acquiring educational resources.

This project will benefit East Georgia State College's Political Science Program. POLS 1101 is a prerequisite for three required area F courses in the program (POLS 2101 Introduction to Political Science, POLS 2301 Introduction to Comparative Politics, and POLS 2401 Global Issues). Political Science majors who fail this course must postpone taking area F political science courses, which increases the amount of time it takes for them to complete their degrees. Since this project eliminates financial barriers to student success in POLS 1101, it could help political science majors graduate sooner.

This project will really benefit East Georgia State College. Like many access institutions, East Georgia State College has low student retention and degree completion rates. Low student success rates in required courses are one of the key causes of low retention and degree completion rates. Since all students must take POLS 1101, student success in this course affects substantially the college's retention and degree completion rates. If students fail this course, they must take it again in a subsequent semester, and this can delay degree completion. Failing a course can contribute to the college placing students on academic probation or exclusion, both of which can lower retention and degree completion. By removing financial barriers to student success in POLS 1101, this project could improve East Georgia State College's retention and degree completion rates.

Transformation Action Plan

Larson will serve as the project lead. As project lead, Larson will supervise and coordinate the team members' activities, collect assessment data from team members, and write and submit semester and final project reports.

Larson, Cheek, Caiazzo, Mancill, and Mullins will serve as subject matter experts, instructional designers, and instructors of record.

As subject matter experts, Larson, Cheek, Caiazzo, Mancill, and Mullins will identify and review existing no-cost textbooks to determine their suitability for POLS 1101. They will use the following criteria to evaluate all instructional resources: content accuracy, readability, clarity, and comprehensiveness. The subject matter experts have evaluated the following no-cost textbooks: American Government by Glen Krutz, The Basics of American Government by Carl Cavalli, and American Government by Timothy Lenz and Mirya Holman. Many of the main no-cost textbooks have significant content gaps. For example, American Government by Glen Krutz and The Basics of American Government by Carl Cavalli provide inadequate treatment of topics such as government, democracy, constitutionalism, the influences on the authors of the US Constitution, and the powers of Congress, the President, and the Courts. To help fill these gaps, the subject matter experts will search for additional no-cost materials to supplement the major no-cost textbooks. Examples of supplemental no-cost resources include primary sources, book chapters, journal articles, newspaper articles, videos, lecture notes, and PowerPoint slides. The subject matter experts have reviewed the following no-cost supplemental materials: The Federalist Papers by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, Craig Benzine's "Crash Course US Government and Politics" videos, and the Declaration of Independence. If the subject matter experts cannot find suitable free materials to fill the content gaps in the no-cost textbooks, they will create new materials such as articles, videos, and PowerPoint slides.

As instructional designers, Larson, Cheek, Caiazzo, Mancill, and Mullins will review and, if necessary, revise the POLS 1101 course objectives. One of the current course objectives is: by the end of the semester, students should be able to explain the structure and powers of the Congress, presidency, and courts. The instructional designers will select no-cost materials that cover the topics the course objectives mention. For example, to help students meet the above course objective, the instructional designers may have students read the US Constitution, which is a free primary source that outlines the structure and powers of the three branches of the US Government. Also, the instructional designers will evaluate and, if necessary, modify the syllabi, lectures, PowerPoints, and assignments (e.g. exams, papers, quizzes) they use in their POLS 1101 courses to accommodate the no-cost materials.

As instructors of record, Larson, Cheek, Caiazzo, Mancill, and Mullins will each teach one section of POLS 1101 in summer 2020 and five sections of POLS 1101 in fall 2020 using no-cost materials, revised syllabi, course objectives, lectures, and assignments. They will also administer quantitative and qualitative assessment measures in all courses.

This project will preserve each professor's academic freedom to experiment and innovate. Each professor will have broad discretion over which materials to include in his course, provided they are appropriate to the course objectives.

The instructors of record will make all no-cost instructional materials available to students through East Georgia State College's online learning management system, D2L Daylight. Also, if the subject matter experts create new materials, they will make them available through GALILEO Open Learning Materials. All newly created materials will meet 508 compliance requirements.

Quantitative & Qualitative Measures

Quantitative Measures

In East Georgia State College's political science classes, all faculty administer pre-tests at the beginning of each semester and post-tests at the end of each semester to determine how much student knowledge of the course materials has increase over the semester. The instructors of record will compare the results of the pre and post-tests in the courses using no-cost educational resources with courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks.

During week 5 of fall and spring semesters, instructors at East Georgia State College issue early grade warning alerts to students who have overall course grades below 70. The instructors of record will compare the percent of students who receive 5-week early grade warning alerts in classes using no-cost educational resources with the percent of students who received 5-week early grade warning alerts in courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks.

The instructors of record will compare student performance on assignments in classes using no-cost educational resources with student performance on assignments in courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks. Examples of assignments include multiple choice question quizzes over daily reading assignments, multiple choice question exams over course readings, lectures, and discussions, and 4-5 page research papers on current debates in American politics (e.g. abortion, same-sex marriage, immigration).

The instructors of record will compare student drop, withdraw, and success rates in courses using no-cost educational resources with student drop, withdraw, and success rates in courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks.

Qualitative Measures

At the end of the spring and fall semesters, students at East Georgia State College complete course reviews using the IOTA System. The instructors of record will compare the student feedback on courses using no-cost educational resources with student feedback on courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks. They will look for student feedback about the costs of materials, the quality of materials, etc.

The instructors of record will design a short questionnaire that asks students about whether the cost of textbooks influences their decisions to buy them, how the quality of no-cost instructional resources compares to the quality of traditional textbooks, whether students prefer traditional textbooks or no-cost educational resources, etc. Students in each class will complete this questionnaire at the end of semester either in class during the final exam or online via the survey tool in the online learning management system, D2L Daylight.

Timeline

Spring 2020

The subject matter experts will review existing no-cost textbooks such as American Government by Glen Krutz and The Basics of American Government by Carl Cavalli. They will also identify no-cost educational materials to supplement these textbooks such as primary sources, journal articles, book chapters, newspaper articles, videos, lecture notes, and PowerPoint slides. If necessary, they will create new no-cost instructional materials to supplement existing free resources. In addition, they will revise syllabi, course objectives, lectures, and assignments (e.g. exams, papers, quizzes) to accommodate no-cost instructional materials. Further, they will develop quantitative and qualitative measures for assessing student satisfaction, performance, and retention.

Summer 2020

All instructors of record will each teach one section of POLS 1101 using the newly adopted no-cost educational resources, revised syllabi, course objectives, and assignments. In each course, they will administer the quantitative and qualitative assessments mentioned in section four. Depending on the results of the assessments, the instructors of record may revise the instructional materials, syllabi, course objectives, and assignments.

Fall 2020:

The instructors of record will each teach five sections of POLS 1101 using the no-cost instructional materials, updated syllabi, course objectives, and assignments. In each course, they will administer the quantitative and qualitative assessments mentioned in section four. Depending on the results of the assessments, the instructors of record may further revise the educational resources, syllabi, objectives, and assignments. Finally, the project lead will write and submit the final project report.

Budget

\$5000 salary support for Dr. Brett Larson
\$400 travel support for Dr. Brett Larson
\$5000 salary support for Dr. Lee Cheek
\$5000 salary support for Dr. Tom Caiazza
\$5000 salary support for Pr. Daniel Mancill
\$400 travel support for Pr. Daniel Mancill
\$5000 salary support for Pr. Robert Mullins
Total: \$25,800

Sustainability Plan

Since POLS 1101 is a required course for all students at East Georgia State College, the instructors of record will continue to teach five sections of it in future spring and fall semesters and one section of it in future summer semesters. Since politics is constantly changing, the instructors of record will continually search for new no-cost educational materials and/or create new ones to keep the course up to date with key developments in American politics. Also, the instructors of record will continue to use quantitative and qualitative assessments to evaluate their courses. Depending on the results of the assessment measures, they may update the instructional materials, syllabi, course objectives, and assignments.

Also, the instructors of record will explore opportunities to present this project's results at academic conferences such as the Georgia Political Science Association's annual meetings and publish articles in journals such as the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Acknowledgment

Grant Acceptance

[Acknowledged] I understand and acknowledge that acceptance of Affordable Learning Georgia grant funding constitutes a commitment to comply with the required activities listed in the RFP and that my submitted proposal will serve as the statement of work that must be completed by my project team. I further understand and acknowledge that failure to complete the deliverables in the statement of work may result in termination of the agreement and funding.

**Office of the Vice President for Academic
and Student Affairs**



3 September 2019

Dear ALG Textbook Transformation Grant Committee:

I am pleased to write in support of Dr. Brett Larson, Dr. H. Lee Cheek, Dr. Thomas Caiazza, Pr. Daniel Mancill, and Pr. Robert Mullins's Scaling Up Open Educational Resources Textbook Transformation Grant round 15 proposal. Their proposal redesigns all sections of POLS 1101 American Government taught by full-time faculty to use no-cost educational materials instead of cost prohibitive, traditional textbooks. If implemented, it will save East Georgia State College's students approximately \$234,933.60 over the next academic year.

POLS 1101 is a require course in area E of the core curriculum for all East Georgia State College students. Approximately 1650 students take this course each academic year. Currently, the required textbooks for this course cost \$93.99-\$249.95. East Georgia State College is an access institution that serves many low-income students. In its service region, the median household income is \$40,216, the percent of the population living below the poverty line is 22.6, and the percent of people twenty-five or older with at least a bachelor's degree is 16.4 (President of East Georgia State College's 8-1-2018 Presentation Economic and Education Statistics). Since many students who attend East Georgia State College cannot afford to spend \$93.99-\$249.95 on textbooks for one course, they often delay purchasing them until after receiving financial aid or do not purchase them at all. Students who delay purchasing or do not purchase the course materials often cannot complete assignments and are at high risk of failing classes. By reducing the costs of the educational materials for this course to \$0, this proposal will remove financial obstacles to student success and improve East Georgia State College's retention and degree completion rates.

I am very pleased that Dr. Brett Larson, Dr. H. Lee Cheek, Dr. Thomas Caiazza, Pr. Daniel Mancill, and Pr. Robert Mullins are applying for this grant and I strongly support them receiving it.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Sandra Sharman

Sandra Sharman, Ph.D., Interim Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs



Textbook Transformation Grants, Round Fifteen (Fall 2019 – Fall 2020) Proposal Form and Narrative

Notes

- The proposal form and narrative .docx file is for offline drafting and review. Submitters must use the InfoReady Review online form for proposal submission.
- The only way to submit the official proposal is through the online form in Georgia Tech's InfoReady Review. The link to the online application will on the [Round 15 RFP Page](#) in July 2019.
- The italic text provided below is meant for clarifications and can be deleted.

Applicant, Team, and Sponsor Information

The **applicant** is the proposed Project Lead for the grant project. The **submitter** is the person submitting the application (which may be a Grants Officer or Administrator). The submitter will often be the applicant – if so, leave the submitter fields blank.

Institution(s)	East Georgia State College
Applicant Name	Brett Larson
Applicant Email	blarson@ega.edu
Applicant Phone #	478-289-2058
Applicant Position/Title	Assistant Professor of Political Science
Submitter Name	
Submitter Email	
Submitter Phone #	
Submitter Position	

Please provide the first/last names and email addresses of all team members within the proposed project. Include the applicant (Project Lead) in this list. Do not include prefixes or suffixes such as Ms., Dr., Ph.D., etc.

	Name	Email Address
Team Member 1	Brett Larson	blarson@ega.edu
Team Member 2	H. Lee Cheek	lcheek@ega.edu
Team Member 3	Thomas Caiazzo	tcaiazzo@ega.edu
Team Member 4	Daniel Mancill	dmancill@ega.edu
Team Member 5	Robert Mullins	ramullins@ega.edu
Team Member 6		
Team Member 7		
Team Member 8		

If you have any more team members to add, please enter their names and email addresses in the text box below.

Please provide the sponsor's name, title, department, and institution. The sponsor is the provider of your Letter of Support.

Dr. Sandra Sharman, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, East Georgia State College

Project Information and Impact Data

Priority Category / Categories	Scaling Up OER
Requested Amount of Funding	25,800
Course Names and Course Numbers	American Government POLS 1101
Final Semester of Project	Fall 2020
Average Number of Students Per Course Section Affected by Project	30
Average Number of Sections Affected by Project in One Academic Year	55
Total Number of Students Affected by Project in One Academic Year	1650
Average Number of Students Affected per Summer Semester	150
Average Number of Students Affected per Fall Semester	750
Average Number of Students Affected per Spring Semester	750
Original Required Commercial Materials	<p>Brett Larson's POLS 1101 classes: <i>Introduction to American Government</i>, Charles Turner, BVT Publishing, \$143.99 (soft cover)* https://www.bvtstudents.com/government-and-history/american-government/introduction-to-american-government-10e</p> <p>Lee Cheek's POLS 1101 classes: <i>American Government: Institutions and Policies</i>,</p>

	<p>James Q. Wilson, Cengage, \$249.95 (bound book)* https://www.cengage.com/c/american-government-essentials-edition-institutions-and-policies-16e-wilson/</p> <p>Tom Caiazzo's and Daniel Mancill's POLS 1101 classes: <i>Understanding American Government</i>, Tom Caiazzo, Daniel Mancill, and Charles Turner, BVT Publishing, \$93.99 (soft cover) https://www.bvtstudents.com/3909?search=caiazzo</p> <p>Robert Mullins's POLS 1101 classes: <i>Keeping the Republic</i>, Christine Barbour and Gerald C. Wright, Sage/CQ Press, \$130.00 (paperback)** https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/keeping-the-republic/book259167</p> <p>*Brett Larson and Lee Cheek are recipients of a round 12 standard scale textbook transformation grant (Proposal # 381). The original required commercial materials listed above are the ones they used prior to receiving the round 12 grant. **Robert Mullins is currently using no-cost materials. The original required commercial materials listed above are the ones he used prior to switching to free ones.</p>
Total Price of Original Required Materials Per Student	<p>Students in Brett Larson's POLS 1101 classes—\$143.99 Students in Lee Cheek's POLS 1101 classes—\$249.95 Students in Tom Caiazzo's and Daniel Mancill's POLS 1101 classes—\$93.99 Students in Robert Mullins's POLS 1101 classes—\$130.00</p>
Post-Project Cost Per Student	\$0
Post-Project Savings Per Student	<p>Students in Brett Larson's POLS 1101 classes—\$143.99 Students in Lee Cheek's POLS 1101 classes—\$249.95 Students in Tom Caiazzo's and Daniel Mancill's POLS 1101 classes—\$93.99 Students in Robert Mullins's POLS 1101 classes—\$130.00</p>
Projected Total Annual Student Savings Per Academic Year	\$234,933.60
Using OpenStax Textbook?	Yes

Narrative Section

1. Project Goals

1. Reduce students' costs of taking POLS 1101 by using no-cost, high quality educational resources instead of cost prohibitive, traditional textbooks.
2. Increase student success rates in POLS 1101 by using no-cost, high quality educational resources.
3. Adopt and/or create no-cost educational resources that supplement existing no-cost textbooks such as *American Government* by Glen Krutz.

2. Statement of Transformation

POLS 1101 is a required course in Area E of the core curriculum for all East Georgia State College students. In one academic year, approximately 1650 students take this course. East Georgia State College's Political Science program has five full-time faculty members who each teach roughly eleven sections of POLS 1101 per academic year (five in fall semester, five in spring semester, and one in summer semester). These courses are offered in face to face and online formats. The full-time faculty use a variety of instructional materials to teach POLS 1101. Larson and Cheek are recipients of a round 12 standard scale textbook transformation grant and thus use no-cost materials. Before receiving the round 12 grant, Larson used *Introduction to American Government* (\$143.99) and Cheek used *American Government: Institutions and Policies* (\$249.95). Caiazza and Mancill use *Understanding American Government* (\$93.99). Mullins currently uses no-cost educational resources, but before making the switch, he used *Keeping the Republic* (\$130.00).

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This project will benefit East Georgia State College's Political Science Program. POLS 1101 is a prerequisite for three required area F courses in the program (POLS 2101 Introduction to Political Science, POLS 2301 Introduction to Comparative Politics, and POLS 2401 Global Issues). Political Science majors who fail this course must postpone taking area F political science courses, which increases the amount of time it takes for them to complete their degrees. Since this project eliminates financial barriers to student success in POLS 1101, it could help political science majors graduate sooner.

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Quantitative Measures

In East Georgia State College's political science classes, all faculty administer pre-tests at the beginning of each semester and post-tests at the end of each semester to determine how much student knowledge of the course materials has increase over the semester. The instructors of record will compare the results of the pre and post-tests in the courses using no-cost educational resources with courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks.

During week 5 of fall and spring semesters, instructors at East Georgia State College issue early grade warning alerts to students who have overall course grades below 70. The instructors of record will compare the percent of students who receive 5-week early grade warning alerts in classes using no-cost educational resources with the percent of students who received 5-week early grade warning alerts in courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks.

The instructors of record will compare student performance on assignments in classes using no-cost educational resources with student performance on assignments in courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks. Examples of assignments include multiple choice question quizzes over daily reading assignments, multiple choice question exams over course readings, lectures, and discussions, and 4-5 page research papers on current debates in American politics (e.g. abortion, same-sex marriage, immigration).

The instructors of record will compare student drop, withdraw, and success rates in courses using no-cost educational resources with student drop, withdraw, and success rates in courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks.

Qualitative Measures

At the end of the spring and fall semesters, students at East Georgia State College complete course reviews using the IOTA System. The instructors of record will compare the student feedback on courses using no-cost educational resources with student feedback on courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks. They will look for student feedback about the costs of materials, the quality of materials, etc.

The instructors of record will design a short questionnaire that asks students about whether the cost of textbooks influences their decisions to buy them, how the quality of no-cost instructional resources compares to the quality of traditional textbooks, whether students prefer traditional textbooks or no-cost educational resources, etc. Students in each class will complete this questionnaire at the end of semester either in class during the final exam or online via the survey tool in the online learning management system, D2L Daylight.

5. Timeline

Spring 2020

The subject matter experts will review existing no-cost textbooks such as *American Government* by Glen Krutz and *The Basics of American Government* by Carl Cavalli. They will also identify no-cost educational materials to supplement these textbooks such as primary sources, journal articles, book chapters, newspaper articles, videos, lecture notes, and PowerPoint slides. If necessary, they will create new no-cost instructional materials to supplement existing free resources. In addition, they will revise syllabi, course objectives, lectures, and assignments (e.g. exams, papers, quizzes) to accommodate no-cost instructional materials. Further, they will develop quantitative and qualitative measures for assessing student satisfaction, performance, and retention.

Summer 2020

All instructors of record will each teach one section of POLS 1101 using the newly adopted no-cost educational resources, revised syllabi, course objectives, and assignments. In each course, they will administer the quantitative and qualitative assessments mentioned in section four. Depending on the results of the assessments, the instructors of record may revise the instructional materials, syllabi, course objectives, and assignments.

Fall 2020:

The instructors of record will each teach five sections of POLS 1101 using the no-cost instructional materials, updated syllabi, course objectives, and assignments. In each course, they will administer the quantitative and qualitative assessments mentioned in section four. Depending on the results of the assessments, the instructors of record may further revise the educational resources, syllabi, objectives, and assignments. Finally, the project lead will write and submit the final project report.

6. Budget

\$5000 salary support for Dr. Brett Larson

\$400 travel support for Dr. Brett Larson

\$5000 salary support for Dr. Lee Cheek

\$5000 salary support for Dr. Tom Caiazzo

\$5000 salary support for Pr. Daniel Mancill

\$400 travel support for Pr. Daniel Mancill

\$5000 salary support for Pr. Robert Mullins

Total: \$25,800

7. Sustainability Plan

Since POLS 1101 is a required course for all students at East Georgia State College, the instructors of record will continue to teach five sections of it in future spring and fall semesters and one section of it in future summer semesters. Since politics is constantly changing, the instructors of record will continually search for new no-cost educational materials and/or create new ones to keep the course up to date with key developments in American politics. Also, the instructors of record will continue to use quantitative and qualitative assessments to evaluate their courses. Depending on the results of the assessment measures, they may update the instructional materials, syllabi, course objectives, and assignments.

Also, the instructors of record will explore opportunities to present this project's results at academic conferences such as the Georgia Political Science Association's annual meetings and publish articles in journals such as the Chronicle of Higher Education.

[Note: Letter of Support](#)