Dear Faculty and Staff at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee:

Thank you for your dedication to students. We, the Student Association at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), recognize the challenges of accommodating the diversity of students that attend an access institution such as UWM, and commend the many efforts made by faculty and staff to ensure student success.

As many of you are aware, students’ academic success is greatly determined by their access to course materials. We ran a survey ran last year of 770 UWM students representing nearly all the schools and colleges, and found that of the 75% of students that either had to delay purchasing a textbook or forego it completely because they were unable to pay for it...

- 47% performed worse on exams
- 41% missed their homework assignments
- 29% students picked class to avoid textbook costs
- 14% students felt treated differently by professors
- 6% students had to drop out of their class
- 5% students failed their class

With this letter, we hope to encourage faculty to drop off at least one of their course textbooks in the Media and Reserve Library. Professors that currently use this resource either receive desk copies from publishers or buy them themselves to put there.

Located in the basement of the West Wing of the Library, this resource allows students to check out textbooks for a period of two hours. They can renew their textbook check-out as many times as is needed to do homework assignments, read chapters, and complete coursework until another student asks to use the book.

While this is not an end all solution, more than 60% of students agreed that having textbooks on reserve in the library would benefit them financially and/or academically. With some level of access to free textbooks on campus, your students may be better able to perform in your classes.

Again, we appreciate the work you all do for students, and hope making textbooks more affordable is an initiative we can work on together moving forward.

Sincerely,

The Student Association at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee