Affordable Educational Resources Academic Senate Subcommittee
Meeting Agenda for April 1st, 2019 at 1:30 pm in RHS 269

Charge of the Committee:
The Affordable Educational Resources Committee works with Academic Senate, students, faculty, and staff in programs across campus to:
1. identify alternative strategies to reduce textbook and course material costs for students;
2. make recommendations that address textbook and course material affordability and accessibility, while respecting academic freedom;
3. educate students, faculty, and staff about alternative strategies to reduce textbook and course material costs;
4. develop objectives and timelines to accomplish actionable goals.

Present: Rebecca Goodchild, Katie Carbary, Antonio López, Catherine Anderson, Elise Vargas, Angela McElroy, Angela Block, Elizabeth Shutak

Agenda items:

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting - approved.
2. Update: “OER ambassadors” as a faculty resource for website.
   a. Textbook affordability students have created a webpage for the AERC website with the contact information for the faculty who have volunteered to be OER ambassadors (faculty who use or have used OER/Low-Cost materials and are willing to share their experiences).
   b. The textbook affordability students also have a rough draft version of several other webpages for the AERC website including a some edits to the OER @ SCC page, and a new page to help students with the ZTC logo.
3. Update: OER adoption process recommendations will now be going to DCC first.
   a. KC & RG will present the Textbook Adoption Best Practices guide to the Department Chairs Council on 4/4/19.
   b. They will ask for feedback on the form, discuss how an AERC representative can come to department meetings to discuss how to implement these ideas at the department level, and discuss any questions that may arise.
4. Update: OER coordinator justification request still needs to be made at the college level, since the ASCCC recommendation would not provide funding. Tentative plan to work on this over spring break.
   a. There was much discussion on this topic. Essentially, we need an accessibility expert and an OER coordinator at SCC. There is clear
overlap between these two areas as many online sources, including many OERs, need many changes to make them fully accessible. Many, if not most, faculty don’t have the expertise or the time to make all documents and websites fully accessible for their students. Furthermore, the barriers to providing accessibility of information rests, legally, on the shoulders of faculty, which is untenable. Faculty are liable for accessibility issues despite have zero training or support for making an accessible environment for students. This is an issue that goes beyond the scope of our committee and our expertise. In light of the expanding distance education aspect of Los Rios, especially the online college, we suggest that an accessibility expert be hired to address these issues.

b. An OER coordinator would also be ideal. KC and RG will write up the justification for such a position by the end of April. They will consider equity issues, accessibility issues, and the financial issues involved.

5. OER flex for fall
   a. A professional development proposal was submitted for Fall 2019 flex week on a Wednesday or Thursday for 1.5 hours. Generally, this workshop will be part lecture, part workshop, the details of which will be finalized closer to the event date.

6. Student video (or other media such as a web page, flyer) explaining ZTC logo in class schedule. Do our Textbook Affordability Assistants want to work on this?
   a. The textbook affordability students are already working on a webpage to help students navigate the vagaries of the ZTC logo. They plan to continue working on this.
   b. There was a suggestion that they create an informational flyer about the ZTC logo for students which can be brought to the student senate, counselors, EOP&S, etc. The TA students said they would work on this.

Future agenda items:
   - Discussion of AERC summer plans
   - Next year’s committee membership

Remaining spring semester meeting dates:
   ● May 6th