Affordable Educational Resources

Academic Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

April 16th, 2018

1:30 pm in LRC 120

Attending: Farhad Alemi, Katie Carbary, Charell Carr, Tara DuVernay, Kevin Flash, Rebecca Goodchild, Antonio López, Denis Odipo, Bruce Zenner

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.

Agenda items:


   Our goal is figure out the best way for faculty to indicate they are using an OER textbook. Antonio, Rebecca and Katie went through the textbook selection process and tried to select an OpenStax textbook. We discussed the problems and errors they experienced in the process.

   Denis informed us that the textbook ordering process is controlled through the company that owns the software. We can request the dropdown menu be changed, but nothing else. Current choices include “Course doesn’t require materials” and “see instructor for access to materials.”

   Advice for new OER users is to attempt to select the book through the bookstore ordering process. If this is unsuccessful, contact Denis to see if he can add the textbook for you.

   We would like there to be a standard process. Can we come up with an instructor guide? We have until the next textbook order to create it.
2. Addressing misleading emails from publishing companies.

We discussed emails from a textbook representative that claim to be already working with faculty, but could not provide details. Katie and Bruce will forward their emails to Kevin. The company is misrepresenting its relationship with the district.

3. AB 798 - Curation Project/Bonus Round Application - Update.

Rebecca is currently working to curate OER materials. A funding pattern has been established if we would like to repeat this using funds from the second round of AB798. Angela Block is also working to curate materials.


An email from Don implied that the district is currently working on a “low-cost” definition. Should we invite Don to a meeting?

5. SB 1359/ ZTC Logo Communication - Update.

Nich was emailed to remind department chairs to encourage faculty to fill out the zero textbook cost form.

6. Relevant announcements related to the work of the committee.

Next meeting: May 7th at 1:30 pm in LRC 120 (last meeting of the academic year)

Future agenda items:

- Visit from Delmar (LibreText)