Affordable Educational Resources Academic Senate Subcommittee
Minutes for September 17th, 2018 at 1:30 pm in LRC 318

Members In Attendance: Catherine Anderson, Elizabeth Shutak, Kathleen (Katie) Carbary, Rebecca Goodchild, Antonio López

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:

1. Welcome new members of the AERC: Introductions to the committee.
   - We each introduced ourselves.

2. Review of the AERC role in academic senate and campus committee structure.
   - This committee is not a standing committee, but it is an academic senate subcommittee. We are meeting with the new academic senate president, Gayle Pitman, on Thursday [9/27/18] to talk about some of these issues, especially in light of the issues concerning shared governance. There might be some restructuring of committees in general, and we want to make sure we are following the rules and guidelines going forward. KC and RG will attend and report back to the committee.
   - KC wants to create an “expectations of the AERC” document that has a list of standing things that we need/want to know. A draft will be formed after the meeting with the academic senate president [on 9/27/18].
   - We will start using Outlook event reminders going forward.

3. Update on AB 798, Federal/UCD Grant Application, and Federal Work Study for student working TAA position.
   - Look into email circulating on Federal Work Study money running out.
   - AB 798 is a 2015 California textbook affordability act. In 2016, we were awarded $19k to spend through 2018. We’ve spent all but $300 of the money. We applied in June for the bonus round of $24k, but we have not received an award letter yet. During the last academic year, we hired two student textbook affordability assistants. One was paid through AB 798 money, and one was paid through work study money. The bonus round of funding application did not include
funding for a TAA this year because we thought we would be able to hire students using work study money. However, it looks like work study money might be gone. AL and KC will investigate. The award notification for the award is at the end of the month, so we might know whether we got the bonus round by our next meeting. Last year, the TAAs were very helpful in visiting senate, council of chairs, doing research, updating the website, helping with events, etc. One of the previous TAAs recommended another student to take over one of the positions (if there is federal work study moola).

- If we get the bonus money, we want to create a pilot program to find OER materials. Essentially, a faculty member will create an annotated bibliography of OERs and match them to the official Student Learning Outcomes. Then, they will put it together in a report and then send the report to LibreTexts, Delmar Larsen. Then, they take our information and create a web-based textbook. Then, we will have some workshops: what is OER; evaluating OER; generating the report. Then the faculty member who goes through the process, and then they will go out and create the report. They will get $200 for each workshop, and then $900 for the report itself. We have money to fund 10. If we have too many volunteers, we will use “gap analysis” to select those who can be “hired.”

- Antonio wants to make badges with the remaining $350 from the AB 798 funds. Antonio showed the committee a laser cut badge model. The idea is to have physical badges, digital badges, and stickers. Antonio met with Kevin Flash, and Tom C. (from Makerspace), a few other people involved with Makerspace, and Kaitlyn from the PIO. The badges will be given to people who complete the workshops (an idea).

- Federal/UCD Grant Application - Rebecca, Antonio, and Kevin Flash are Los Rios Community College District partners in a grant created through LibreTexts (Delmar Larsen - UC Davis chemistry professor). Antonio and Rebecca are part of the harvesting team. Antonio is the Director of the Harvest. The overall grant is several million dollars, and we would get 80-100k for each year, for the next several years. If we get the money, we will use it to scale up our pilot program (see previous bullet point). We will know if Delmar gets the grant in October. Antonio and Rebecca will be leads on the Harvest team.

- KC wants to reevaluate the harvest report criteria from SLOs to something else (course descriptions, etc.).

- Need to include equity angle on our OER curation/harvesting reports and training sessions.

- The development of the workshops needs to be vetted by the AERC.

- KC wants the departments to endorse the OER curation reports to add weight to the selection for those who want to use the OER. She worries that departments will say that the OERs are not accessible, for example, and then fewer prof.s will be able to use OERs, so she wants department buy in on individual OERs, especially for departments who require faculty to approve any textbooks. This is critical for non-tenured faculty and adjuncts. We want to make sure we can
actually use the OERs here at SCC. (look into accessibility, transferability, what about a printed copy, “its missing something”)
- Make sure we have the academic senate support of OER use on our AERC website.
- We need to collect “myths” and problems with OER and try to solve them.

4. Relevant announcements relevant to the committee (please limit to 5 minutes per announcement).

- There was some discussion around outreach to departments to encourage OERs.
- Sailor Academy free textbooks - there used to be a publisher who tried to sell print books with a free online aspect. Now, the online version of the books are available online under creative commons licenses. Flatworld Knowledge publishing still produces the books in paper. KC wants to know if she can assign the free, online book, and use the printed one as a “recommended” book but not a “required” book. She wants to know if this is ok, and if so, can we tell people so that more professors would use it (to get around the printed copy issues).
- KC wants to include picture descriptions to the OER book she wants to use. She contacted the people who house the book because the format is not editable right now.
- AL - Delmar Larsen has a student who is good at coding who is on the Libretexts team. Larsen and AL wants to put LibreTexts into CANVAS. AL is reminding Larsen about OEI requirements. They want to make LibreTexts easy to adopt into Canvas cartridges that include all the accessibility requirements for OEI. Awhile ago, OpenStax books were loaded into Canvas, so it would be awesome if we can get LibreTexts into Canvas (which would solve many of the tech issues with OERs). We want to be able to actually use these OERs.
- Many of the videos don’t meet the OEI standards for closed captioning. The auto-captions from Youtube are problematic to the high OEI standards. Hence, many links to videos inside of Canvas will not necessarily comply with accessibility requirements. There is no instructor support for creating OEI requirements for classes which is frustrating as it takes a lot of time to caption everything yourself.
- RG will email Nich Miller and ask if he can help us talk to departments.
- We need to disseminate information on ZTC requirements to faculty.