Affordable Educational Resources Committee - 2/29/16
City Café 2 - 10:00am - 11:00am

In attendance: Dianne Bennett, Tara DuVernay, Kevin Flash, Sharon Gilchrist, Antonio Lopez, Mary Ann Robinson, Irma Rodriguez, Bruce Zenner

Students in attendance: Humberto Campos, Raymond Conchc, Lauryn Payn

1. Introductions. Mary Ann stated that the textbook taskforce was a response to changing times. The taskforce saw a need for a committee and defined the charge and membership.

2. Charge of the Committee restated.

3. The remaining meetings of the semester are March 14, 28, April 11, 25, and May 9. Each meeting is Monday 10am in City Café.

7. Bruce: We had a FLEX in early spring to discuss OER (open educational resources). There was not enough time for people with OER experience to share their experiences and promote the use of OER. We are holding two FLEX this spring to accomplish that goal. They are on 3/16 and 3/17 at 9:00-10:30am in a location to be determined. The FLEX meetings will be taking place before the book fair (we will have an OER table). One FLEX topic will be the OER initiative. The other FLEX topic will be who is doing what on campus.

8. Antonio: Handed out “Considerations to Assess Readiness & Eligibility for Textbook Affordability Act of 2015 (AB 798) Program.” Overview: The act was passed in October to provide some funds to encourage the adoption of open or reduced cost educational resources.

Additional notes/discussion:
B. The coordinator must be one person.
C. Courses need to have a 30% savings in cost. Courses that already use open educational resources will not be eligible for funding.
D. Print access must be available to all students. A text with no print option may not satisfy requirements.
E. No money value is specified for tech support. Professional development can be covered through FLEX workshops.
F. The support services form is partially filled out - many of topics are covered already.

Brainstorming with respect to open educational resources and the resolution:
Diane gave a background on Chem Wiki and information on where it is headed. The current goal is to expand to STEM Wiki. Book templates are provided and they can be crosslinked with prerequisite textbooks.
- Chem Wiki got funding for students to help create homework problems. Could the money from AB 798 be used in a similar way?
- Could the money be used through financial aid by creating work study positions?
- Could we have Tutor positions, or Instructional Assistant positions?

- Access to printed copies of eBooks is covered, students can print pages at home or on campus.
- Students can be given enhanced copy cards to help with the cost of printing eBooks. These can be made available on a course by course basis. Assistance programs are in place already for EOP&S, RISE, ESTEEM, DSPS, and CalWorks.
- The print copy mandate may be covered through DSPS. They already provide braille and large print for students. This can be noted in the syllabus.

Antonio asked if SCC is ready to meet the AB 798 requirements. Will we even have 10 sections?
- There are faculty working on equity and changes through equity funds. They may be interested in participating. Follow up with Riad and Norman.
- Starting in Fall 2016: 7 sections of Chem 300, 1 or 2 sections of Microbiology, 1-2 sections of Trig will use open educational resources.

- Open educational resources are lacking for remedial mathematics. Bruce suggested looking at high school math to see if anything OER has been created for them. Tara will follow up.

Resolution: Antonio has prepared three versions of a resolution he will present to the SCC Academic Senate. Version A is what ASCCC passed, Version B was created after discussions with the SCC Academic Senate, Version C is based off of a resolution that Lake Tahoe Community College passed before the requirements for AB 798 were published.
- Please give your feedback to Antonio (cc Tara and Bruce). A resolution will be presented to the SCC Academic Senate for consideration (hopefully by the end of the month). A general resolution is preferred.

Other OER Discussion & Considerations:
- A barrier to using OER is the culling and curating of resources.
- Texts for Math 27/28 were purchased for student use. They can be rented for the entire semester through the library.
- Do all of our students have the technological skills necessary to take advantage of OER? It hasn’t been a problem for the Chemistry courses yet. Some students primarily access the internet through their smart phone.
- There is a “Computer for Kids” program in West Sac. Dr. Lewis Baer provides low cost laptops ($120) and desktops ($100).

- What if students prefer a tangible textbook?
- Bruce bought 24 old editions of a textbook on Amazon and donated them to the library for student use.

Student input: They prefer owning a physical copy. Their eyes can get tired from reading a screen for too long. They like to highlight the text. One student keeps previous textbooks so they can refer back to the information when referenced in a later course.

- In Chemistry students create their own textbook through notes, homework, and classwork.

- Do students have the necessary organizational skills? Counselors can go into classrooms and help students organize. Instructors can provide a table of contents. Human Career Development can provide organizational help.

Mary Ann brought provided a printout of the website homepage. She would like everyone to look at AERC Issues and Actions, OER Resources, and Reading.

AERC Issues and Actions lists the internal and external issues that came up during the taskforce meetings. Please give Mary Ann your thoughts and reflections on these items.

OER Resources lists current curating websites that exist. Please email Mary Ann if you have additional resources or if something needs to be fixed.

Reading includes a summary of the 2007 task force. They gave recommendations with no follow through.

This committee needs more representation from other areas of the college. It is currently weighted towards STEM.