Affordable Educational Resources

Academic Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Oct. 2nd, 2017

1:30 - 2:30pm in LRC 120

Attending: Carly Brotherton, Katie Carbary, Charell Carr, Tara DuVernay, Kevin Flash, Rebecca Goodchild, Antonio Lopez

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.

Minutes:

1. Update on college, district, state policies regarding OER adoption.

Review of what we have found so far regarding these policies and guidelines. This work is likely to take all year. Academic senate did pass a resolution on OER; state law also supports it. The committee discussed several ideas that they have heard from around SCC, the district, and the state about limitations on adopting textbooks and OER, and the source of those ideas in terms of policy. We need to consider issues related to articulation (possibly meeting with articulation officer) and accreditation.

2. Update on ways that AB 798 grant money could be spent.

Antonio presented a list of professional development possibilities for this fall, including several state and national conferences related to OER and textbook affordability. Open Access Conference at SJSU on 10/23 is one inexpensive option. The AB 798 money needs to be allocated by the first half of the spring semester; the travel and expenses need to be incurred by June 30th.

There are also several things that could be done through SCC, including a campus Textbook Affordability Celebration with outside guest speakers, or a AERC Advocacy Retreat to address policy issues. AB 798 doesn’t allow funds to be used as direct
compensation for faculty, except for compensation for “professional development.” A meeting with VPI Boyd is scheduled to determine how this language is to be interpreted, i.e. what is professional development compensation, and what can we use this money for?

Could we hire additional textbook affordability assistants (student workers) in the Spring, specific to different divisions?

Other ideas include a textbook affordability conference hosted at SCC, inviting other colleges from the district and in the area.

3. Report on 9/18 CAEB presentation on SB 1359, OER.

   Tara presented to the clubs and events board, and talked to for 5 minutes about the AERC and about the SB 1359 requirement.

4. Upcoming presentations/outreach.
   a. Fall 2017 AERC Flex Activity. Tuesday 10/3, 12pm in Bus 104.
      Antonio will send out an email to all faculty.
   b. LRC Presentation (10/20).
      Katie will present options for affordable textbooks. Antonio previously talked to this committee about AB 798 and general strategies for affordable resources, FLEX presentations. Topics for this meeting include SB 1359; OpenStax books and course cartridges for Canvas; questions and feedback about rules related to textbook adoption, publication date, articulation, and OER. If we have information about the AB 798 funded options by then, we can also suggest those and get feedback.
   c. DCC (10/5 at 12pm).
      Tara will attend and ask about origin of 5-year curriculum recommendation and other topics.

Next meeting: October 16th, 1:30 - 2:30pm in LRC 120.