Affordable Educational Resources
Academic Subcommittee Meeting Agenda

Sept. 18th, 2017
1:30 - 2:30pm in LRC 120

Attendance: Antonio Lopez, Katie Carbary, Rebecca Goodchild, Carly Brotherton, Kevin Flash, Lorena Ruedas, Linda Myers, 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:

1. Update on ways that AB 798 grant money could be spent
   Antonio is still in the process of researching this. Award money expires in April.

2. Fall 2017 AERC Flex Activity
   Scheduling in processing – we are hoping for a Tuesday at noon Flex time.

3. Report on 9/12 Academic Senate presentation about SB1359, and meeting with reading department:

   Antonio presented to academic senate about SB1359 (bill concerning no-cost textbook materials logo). This goes into effect in January, 2018 and will require classes that have a required textbook that is free to the student to display a new logo on the class schedule. The required book or OER materials must be free to the student, but do not necessarily have to be free to the institution. The state chancellor’s office has a pre-approved logo that the district can use, or the district can develop our own logo, but the logo is required.
Kevin Flash will contact the SCC bookstore from an administrative perspective to see if they want to attend this meeting to discuss their involvement in implementing this logo.

Reading department presentation about AERC membership – there are concerns about appropriate OER materials for reading skills classes.

The committee discussed the financial needs of students for basic skills classes, and whether various programs and financial resources could be used to provide textbooks for these courses, e.g. Reading 10/11. Students writing in the books could be an issue with this approach, because a lot of these books require or encourage students to write on the page as part of reading skill building. Could a group of faculty to create their own reading LibreText? The lowest level classes already have relatively low cost – can be as low as $40 for used books. Most instructors use the same books for the lower level reading courses. Even with the low cost, this is still a barrier for the students. Can the college provide a printing or copying allowance to basic skills students for the semester, allowing for the possibility of them printing course materials like worksheets?

The AERC consensus was that English Reading could be a good candidate to pursue for extended textbook reserves, but we do not currently have the data from other courses to be sure that it is the next set of courses to target. Charell, the student worker, is doing some research on average textbook costs by course which might provide additional relevant information. Katie Carbary will also bring this up this issue to the PRIE committee – is there data on textbook costs by section?

4. OEI/OpenStax update

OpenStax has partnered with California Online Education Initiative (OEI). The OpenStax textbooks are being put into Canvas shells in a way that matches the OEI rubric requirements. The Psychology book was done first, and it is now available as a course cartridge and in Canvas commons.

5. FAQ on OER use for AERC website

Send any comments or suggestions about FAQ content to Antonio Lopez.

Rebecca Goodchild found contractual information about requirements for textbook choices and will email it to the committee, including the currency (year of publication) requirements.
6. AERC website – ideas for other updates on improvements
   Send any comments or suggestions to Antonio Lopez. Charell is being trained to use
   WordPress so that she will be able to update the website in the future

7. Discussion of additional committee goals and plans for the semester
   - Future agenda item: developing criteria for targeting which courses should be
     prioritized for extended textbook reserve. E.g., some courses are not in line with
     OpenStax priorities (e.g. Humanities courses are not the focus of OpenStax, so these
     may have a greater need for extended reserve or other college-supported textbook
     options).
   - Future agenda item: results of technology needs survey results from ICAP project.

Next meeting: October 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 1:30 - 2:30pm in LRC 120