Affordable Educational Resources
Academic Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
March 5th, 2018
1:30 - 2:30pm in LRC 120

Attendance: Farhad Alemi, Angela Block, Katie Carbary, Tara DuVernay, Kevin Flash, Rebecca Goodchild, Antonio López, Elizabeth Shutak

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. OER mini-conference results. Repeatable?

The AERC discussed turnout and the success of the mini-conference. Antonio discussed sending out presentation materials to others who could not attend. Do we want to repeat this conference after a year, or two years? Do we want to instead have trainings, or a more structured faculty institute? This depends on how the VPI will interpret the requirements of AB 798, which paid for the mini-conference.

Rebecca will email attendees of OER mini-conference offering individual 1:1 OER research consultation sessions with AERC members. AERC members who are interesting in being part of this can email their availability to Rebecca by the end of the week.

2. AB 798.

Discussion of the “bonus round” funding opportunity for AB 798, planning surrounding the possibility of re-application, bringing in ARC as a partner campus, the AB 798 funding restrictions and release time issues for the “Textbook Affordability Campus Coordinator.” We would need to work with Interim VPI Don Palm to determine whether the “professional development” part of the 798 funds could be used for faculty stipends to attend an OER faculty institute. Antonio, Tara, Katie and possibly Rebecca will meet separately to discuss the future of this grant.
3. Update on policies (Katie/Rebecca).

The ASCCC OER taskforce published an OER Mythbusting article addressing most of our policy concerns. It is posted on the AERC website. The FAQ section of the district SB 1359 form, and the SB 1359 Information Sheet from our OER mini-conference will also be posted on our website.

4. Report on ASCCC OER regional meeting (Katie).

The ASCCC OER taskforce north regional meeting included some new information about the ways that other colleges have used AB 798 funding, and the status of ZTC degrees and OER use at other colleges. Many other colleges are ahead in developing ZTC degrees and moving toward all-online degrees in some areas.

5. Student/faculty OER survey results.

Tabled until a future meeting.

6. Social media update. #textbookbroke

Tabled until a future meeting.

7. Additional announcements related to the work of the committee:

AERC members met with VPI Don Palm, other senior administrators, and bookstore and reprographics staff to discuss possibilities for duplicating OER and instructor-generated materials. At this meeting, we determined that there is currently no page limit on duplicating requests for OER or instructor-generated materials, as long as the instructor truly has the right to duplicate the material (i.e. it is not a copyright violation). Questions were raised about whether faculty can have reprographics duplicate instructor-generated materials to be sold in the bookstore at a markup, with faculty or departments receiving royalties for the materials. The answer at the current time is no.

Next meeting: March 19th from 1:30 – 2:30 pm in LRC 120

Future agenda items:

- Looking at curation services through EdMap (Kevin)
- Cengage advertisements and misleading information about OER from publishers (Rebecca)
- Student/faculty OER survey results (Charell)
- Social media update. #textbookbroke (Rebecca and Charell)
- Definition of “Low Cost” at other CA community colleges (Katie)