TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE

All that you need to know about OER, ZTC, Inclusive Access, and other ways to provide excellent resources for our courses--that don't cost an arm and a leg!
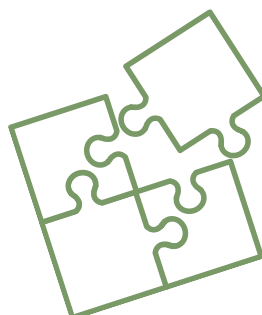
IN THIS EDITION...

NEWS FROM ASCCC

- Fall 2021 Webinars have finished, but check out the Webinars and Events page for the recordings and materials. There were some amazing discussions this semester!
- ASCCC Fall Plenary Resolutions--see Page 2!
- OERI Request for Proposals IV went out in early December-big focus on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racist (IDEA) proposals. More news on this soon.
- ASCCC OERI Canvas Site and the OERI Website have more information on all of these topics, and more.

Next meeting of the Subcommittee:
25 January, 11am-12pm
NEW TIME!
Email Sarah Harmon (harmons@smccd.edu) for the link. Come join us!

We're still looking for representatives from BDW, Counseling, and KAD!

If you're interested, let Sarah Harmon know!

ASCCC Fall Plenary OER/ZTC Resolutions

- Passed
  - 3.04 Develop Statewide Recommendation for Definition of Low-Cost Course Materials
    - Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work with the Student Senate for California Community Colleges and California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to identify a recommended definition of "low-cost" to be considered for adoption throughout the California Community College system.
    - Contact: Michelle Pilati, ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative
  - 3.05 Zero Means Zero Textbook Cost
    - Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recognize open educational resources as the preferred and most sustainable mechanism for eliminating course costs but acknowledge that instances will arise in which eliminating costs is not possible;
    - Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges assert that while open educational resources can reduce or eliminate instructional materials and textbook costs, resources should be dedicated to convening discipline faculty to determine the most sustainable mechanisms for reducing the costs of course resources; and
    - Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage the use of approaches that significantly reduce course resource costs such that course sections with a low-cost can obtain zero-textbook-cost status by virtue of the cost being absorbed by the college, district, or the state.
    - Contact: Michelle Pilati, ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative
- 7.01 System-Level Zero-Textbook-Cost Resources
  - Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges request that the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, as part of the Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Program, explore the provision of centralized accessibility and licensing support to local colleges and districts.
  - Contact: Michelle Pilati, ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative
- 16.01 Advocate for Electronic Access to Required Course Materials
  - Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work with our faculty colleagues in the California State University and University of California, through the Intersegmental Council of Academic Senates (ICAS) and other practitioner groups, to develop a statewide response to publishers from the California public postsecondary systems; and
  - Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work with our faculty colleagues in the California State University and University of California, through the Intersegmental Council of Academic Senates (ICAS) and other practitioner groups, to explore options, including legislation, to support libraries in their ability to provide electronic access to required course materials that students need to succeed in their courses.
  - Contact: Gregory Beyrer, Cosumnes River College, Area A

OER/ZTC Resolutions, continued

- 17.01 Local Senate Policies Regarding Textbook Adoption
    - Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California for Community Colleges provide guidance to local academic senates in developing policies that both protect students and uphold academic freedom in cases where changes to faculty class assignments result in changes in required course resources by Fall of 2022; and
    - Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage local academic senates to adopt policies that both protect students and uphold academic freedom in cases where changes to faculty class assignments result in changes in required course resources.
    - Contact: Michelle Pilati, ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative
- Referred to Executive Committee
    - 13.01 Faculty Responsibility for Confirming Course Resource Accuracy
        - Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage local academic senates to urge faculty to submit their course resource information in a timely manner, regularly check the class schedule to ensure their sections are marked with a zero-cost or low-cost icon if appropriate, and ensure that their textbook and class resource information are clear and accurate.
        - Contact: Michelle Pilati, ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative
        - MSR: Referred to the Executive Committee for clarification on intent and how each "Resolved" can be carried out locally and report back by Spring Plenary Session 2022.

IDEA OF THE MONTH
DEI in OER

As a college, as a district, and in general, we educators are putting more emphasis on the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion, in every aspect of our courses. It only makes sense that our course materials are a big focus.

In the Spring 2022 semester, there will be a series of DEI-themed workshops put on by the ZTC Teams of each of our campuses, starting with a January Flex Day discussion on how DEI fits into our course materials, and how OER materials can help you increase representation and inclusion. We'll have lessons that the Skyline and Cañada teams learned in RLOE this past fall, and student perspectives of why representation and inclusion matter in our course materials.

We'll be following up with more opportunities in March during Open Education Week (7-11 March) and our April Flex Day. There are other conferences and workshops being announced constantly; ask Sarah and Diana for more information!

To Strategically Go Where Cañada Has Not Gone Before!

In a recent Planning and Budgeting Council meeting, the Free College Initiative Budget was laid out, which included funding for OER/ZTC. This is the money that was budgeted in the 2021-2022 SMCCCD Budget, with $1.25M being set aside for OER/ZTC efforts in the District.

The result is that there is money to support the ZTC Adopter Program, which will come back for late Spring 2022. We also got further support for the ZTC Coordinator, which will help in all of the work to be done with the upcoming endeavors. All of this support is wonderful...but our wish list is long!

In October/November, Sarah Harmon and Diana Tedone-Goldstone attended the Regional Leaders in Open Education's first cohort. The final project for the program was to come up with an open education strategic plan, focusing both on OER/ZTC adoptions and open pedagogy practices. That strategic plan is in the works-we'll be continuing to work on it in the 25 January meeting-and it helps us plan out the next 2 semesters through the next few years. This helps us build out our wish list. While we are still working on our full list of needs, we have a singular goal: to make it so that 75% or more of course materials are satisfied by ZTC sources. This includes the use of OER, library resources, public access materials, and more. We want to accomplish this goal by 2030-that's a hefty goal!

What will it take to get to that goal? Simple: Support. Not just the obvious support, the money and release time needed to coordinate and work with faculty. It also requires continued support of faculty who revisit their courses, look for new and innovative ways to bring course materials to their students, and to do so using methods that are free for students. It means supporting faculty-and entire departments!--who want to do this work, by giving them the tools, the time to think and reflect, and the guidance along the way. We need increased library resources-not just for Cañada, but district-wide-and access to a wide variety of materials. We need workshops to help faculty adopt, remix, and author...and then other ways to help staff and students learn about these resources. We need accessibility folks to help us...because their expertise is in such high demand!

We are not alone in this planning; The Skyline ZTC Team also completed the same program as Sarah and Diana, and their folks (Ame Maloney and Bianca Rowden-Quince) are working on their plan now. The CSM Team will be completing the program later next semester, too. And the entire Textbook Affordability Solutions Workgroup has been communicating with the District to implement as many strategies as possible on a district-wide level.

As the TAS finishes the strategic plan, we'll be taking this to the Academic Senate and other participatory governance groups, to get as much feedback as possible. We want to hear from you- what do you need to make the switch to ZTC?

Focus Topic: To-Do List for Winter Break

We're almost there! Time to finish up fall grading, kick back for a bit...and work on our spring courses?

It's true, we all end up thinking about how we want to tool (or retool) our spring courses while drinking eggnog, eating latke, or just loafing around in our comfy slippers as we watch the calendar flip from one year to the next. We set up our Canvas shells, and we think about... do we really want to give *this* YouTube video to our students? Or should we change it to *that* one? Maybe instead of *this* article, we switch things up and give them *that* one?

As you go through your list and check it twice, finding out if everything looks just right, keep in mind the following OER/ZTC checklist:
- If you're using an OER text, has the URL changed?
- If you're using something that's on LibreTexts, Pressbooks, or another repository, have you downloaded the resource to your Canvas course shell? And is it set up right (probably in your modules)?
- If you're using a series of articles that you found in our library databases, have you given the students Permalinks or similar URLs?
- If you're using a series of public access websites, are the links still valid?

Finally, for all of your materials: are they fully accessible? Not just in the pay-sense ('Are they free/open source?'), but in such a way that all of our students are able to use our course materials, regardless of their abilities.

Need help? Let us know!

Other OER News

- California funding for ZTC will be announced during finals week, with more news on this in January. Expect a couple of grant opportunities...start thinking big, folks!
- Open Oregon has been curating a series of resources that are focused on DEI. Most resources are for humanities courses, but there are many options for multiple disciplines. Check it out!
- In collaboration with the Michelson 20MM Foundation Spark Grants program, ISKME is conducting a landscape study and gap analysis, ZTCs for High Wage, High Demand Fields: Bay Area Landscape Study. As state funding for OER development continues, the project will support Bay Area community colleges in their ZTC decision making through a regional network around shared data and evidence to support OER in high wage, high demand fields. This work will also inform those seeking to conduct a gap analysis specific to the local economies of other regions throughout the state.
- Our colleagues Una Daly at CCC-OER and Judith Sebasta at OpenTex published an article for the Community College Daily, a publication of the American Association of Community Colleges. Their article, titled "Time for OER," looks at the reasons why all community colleges need to incorporate OER and other ZTC measures in order to properly make college affordable for all students. Check it out!

Latest OER Publications

Some of the latest titles that have come out in the last couple of months:

- ESL: It's All Greek to Me! Using Authentic Readings to Improve Knowledge of the English Language and Culture, by the University of Tennessee Libraries.
- ESL, all from Reedley College's ESL Department:
  - Intermediate Academic Grammar for ESL Students
  - High Intermediate Academic Grammar for ESL Students
  - The Google Drive of folders for all of their ESL textbooks

You can also check out the ASCCC OER Initiative's list of databases, which includes links to OpenStax, LibreText, MERLOT, and so many more. Their discipline-specific list (on the CCC Canvas page) has multiple resources for many disciplines, along with C-ID connected courses.

We also have a running list of OER resources that are announced on the various listservs. This list is specific to resources that are connected to current Cañada courses. Check it out!

CONTACT US!

Want to know more about Open Educational Resources and Zero Textbook Cost courses? Go to the TAS website for more information.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Frustrations?
Let Sarah know! (harmons@smccd.edu)

Thanks for reading!

The Textbook Affordability Subcommitte are:

- Nick DeMello, Online Education Coordinator; Chemistry Faculty
- Valeria Estrada, Librarian, ASLT Representative
- Sarah Harmon, OER/ZTC Coordinator/AS OER Liaison; Spanish and Linguistics Faculty
- Allison Hughes, Instructional Technologist
- Ramki Kalyanaraman, Engineering Faculty, Science and Technology Representative
- Jai Kumar, Bookstore Manager
- Tessa Noriega, Library Support Specialist
- Lisa Palmer, English Faculty, Humanities and Social Sciences Representative
- David Reed, Dean of Academic Services and Learning Technologies
- Diana Tedone-Goldstone, Librarian