

# Textbook Affordability Subcommittee Meeting for 22 March 2022, 11am-12pm

**Attendees:** Nick DeMello, Sarah Harmon, Allison Hughes, Tessa Noriega, David Reed, Tammy Robinson, Diana Tedone-Goldstone

**Absent:** Valeria Estrada, Ramki Kalyanaraman, Cynthia McCarthy, Lisa Palmer

## ***I. Introductions (5 minutes; Information)***

## ***II. OER Updates (25 minutes; Information)***

- Updates on campus efforts: [GE Mapping](#) and [Z-Degree/Certificate Mapping](#)
  - We technically have full GE coverage, with IGET-C, CSU, and local GEs having just enough offerings that students can complete their GEs as ZTC.
    - One area that we need more help: English. There are many LTC offerings of ENGL 110 and 165, but less so with ENGL 100/105. This is starting to change, but it's a challenge; there are certain textbooks that the faculty want to continue using, and they do fall under the LTC badge. Some faculty are using OER for their literature/supporting materials, while others are insisting on staying with copyrighted materials. Sarah will do some work with the ENGL faculty, including floating ideas of collaborating on pieces (with funding)
  - Z-Degree/Certificate mapping: We're **really** close on ANTH—there are some courses in Selectives B and C that are LTC, but otherwise there is good coverage in ZTC courses. (Thank you, Jessica Marshall!) Same with Education degrees/certificates: There is good coverage of ECE courses (and still yet improving), but it's the outside courses that have very few, if any, options. (Thank you, Patty Hall and Sarita Santos!) No other degree/certificate is truly that close, although Sarah is still continuing to work on this.
  - Ideas to increase coverage:
    - Include opportunities for open pedagogy, getting students involved in the process of creating and curating materials
    - Flex Day discipline meetings around ZTC/LTC
    - For those faculty who are having issues with some of their materials not being available or accessible, showcase the power of OER and various Library resources—using small changes to lead to larger changes with respect to their course materials.
    - Hosting a FAQ to help address concerns.
    - Add a question about OER sources/components to program review—get people thinking about it in the first place.
    - Continued education about copyright/Fair Use, why ripping a PDF of a book and giving it to your students is not ZTC, and how folks can continue to make the switch.
- Updates on OER/ZTC in the District, including the [ZTC/LTC Definitions doc](#) and the Open Ed Week 2022 activities
  - Definitions were approved by DAS on 14 March...with the note that there are a number of resolutions coming in ASCCC's Spring Plenary (see next point), so there may need to be updates.
    - As discussed, since the definitions are the same as what we've been using for the last couple of years (with some minor expansions), we're good to go.
  - Open Ed Week was a big hit, including (especially?) the student survey. Students were asked which Z-Degree/Certificate Pathways they are interested in. We got 396 responses, which isn't bad for this time in the semester.

Sarah reviewed the data, which showed a very strong push for areas that we already have well-

covered at Cañada and in SMCCCD (Social Sciences, Business), other areas that are lightly covered in the district but could use bolstering (Information Technology), and huge support for areas that we don't have in the district (Culinary, Construction Technology, Translation/Interpretation). (Sarah shared the spreadsheet, and has also shared it with Karen Engel.)

- Might be an area for district-wide collaboration on some of these pathways, both in existing areas and in those that we want to explore.
  - Could be an area to create badges for students—along the lines of what Rockland Community College (SUNY) has done with their [microcredentials and skills badges](#).
  - Nick suggested [themed courses](#), especially tapping into culinary interest.
- Updates from the state and ASCCC's Spring Plenary (see resolutions at the end of this document).
    - There are currently 4 resolutions that will be voted on at the Spring Plenary (see end of document).
    - At the Area B meeting on 18 March, Sarah observed that there was good support for these 4, plus that there may be others being added to the final packet. Once that packet comes out, Sarah will send it to the TAS for their input. (She doesn't have a vote at Plenary, but Senate Presidents and the District Senate President do, and she needs to inform them.)

### **III. ZTC Adopter Planning (20 minutes; Discussion)**

- Sarah has sent the announcement/information to the deans, asking them to pass it along to their faculty. She'll also be announcing this at ACES today and at ASGC on Thursday.
- Minor modification: Make 4 April the 'First Review' date, and then 18 April as the 'Second Review' date—see if that might get folks to apply
- Review team: Sarah, Diana, Nick, Tessa, Tammy. (Allison and Jai will be informed as part of the process for their respective areas.)

### **IV. For the good of the order (5 minutes; Discussion)**

- Come April, Sarah will be on campus more—Tuesdays and Thursdays—to work with faculty.

### **V. Adjourn**

## **Important links**

- [Textbook Affordability Subcommittee website](#)
- [OER/ZTC LibGuide](#)
- [SMCCCD OER/ZTC Website](#)
- [ASCCC OERI Website](#)

**Next meeting: 26 April, 11am-12pm, via Zoom**

## Spring 2022 ASCCC Plenary—Resolutions re: OER/ZTC

### **3.03 S22 Oppose Reliance on Commercial Textbook Publishers to Achieve Zero Textbook Cost**

Whereas, California Education Code §78052 (a) states that “It is the intent of the Legislature that community college districts develop and implement zero-textbook-cost degrees and develop open educational resources for courses to reduce the overall cost of education for students and decrease the time it takes students to complete degree programs,” a goal that can promote student success without impinging on either academic freedom or faculty’s rights to choose appropriate instructional materials;

Whereas, California Education Code §78052 establishes that community college districts that develop and implement zero-textbook-cost degrees shall do the following:

- prioritize the development and implementation of a degree from an existing associate degree for transfer and, to the extent possible, prioritize the adaptation of existing open educational resources through existing open educational resources initiatives, or elsewhere, before creating new content.
- develop degrees with consideration for sustainability after grant funding is exhausted, including how content is updated and presented.
- develop and implement a degree that other community college districts can use or adapt, and post each degree, and the contents of the degree, on the online clearinghouse of information established pursuant to Item 6870-101-0001 of the Budget Act of 2016, or a successor internet website. All open educational resources used as learning materials for a degree developed pursuant to this section shall be added to the California Digital Open Source Library established in Section 66408. Testing and assessment materials posted online pursuant to this paragraph shall be safeguarded to maintain the integrity of those materials. This paragraph shall not be construed to prohibit faculty from providing sample test and assessment materials to students;

Whereas, Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) and similar funding have been used to purchase textbooks for students, an efficient and temporary approach to textbook affordability that does not meet the intent or requirements established in California Education Code §78052; and

Whereas, Governor Gavin Newsom expressed an commitment to lowering costs for students by disrupting the entire system of commercial textbook publishing during his press conference unveiling his 2021 – 2022 budget proposal, saying he was “committed” to addressing the “usurious costs associated with textbooks,”<sup>1</sup> which emphasizes his interest in seeing the state’s substantial financial commitment to zero-textbook-cost degrees implemented in ways that are consistent with the intent of California Education Code §78052 through long-term, sustainable solutions rather than primarily through short-term solutions such as funding for one-time or temporary purchases from commercial publishers;

**Resolved**, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges support the stated intent of California Education Code §78052, recognizing the importance of eliminating or reducing textbook costs in a sustainable manner while still preserving the faculty’s right and responsibility under academic freedom to select the most appropriate instructional materials, whether digital or in print; and

**Resolved**, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges opposes the use of mechanisms to achieve zero-textbook-costs that are not sustainable and are inconsistent with the intent of California Education Code §78052.

Contact: ASCCC Executive Committee

### **7.02 S22 Ensure the Sustainability of the Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Program**

Whereas, California Education Code §78052 requires that districts “Develop degrees with consideration for sustainability after grant funding is exhausted, including how content is updated and presented” and that the

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<sup>1</sup> Zinshteyn, Mikhail. (2021, January 13). “Newsom calls textbooks ‘racket,’ proposes money to create free ones.” *CalMatters*. <https://calmatters.org/education/2021/01/newsom-fund-free-textbooks/>.

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office ensure that "a grant does not result in the development or implementation of duplicate degrees for a subject matter to avoid duplication of effort and ensure the development and implementation of the greatest number of degrees for the benefit of the greatest number of students," a requirement that can only be met for the Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Program if the implementation of the program is truly statewide and collaborative;

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recognizes that open educational resources are "the preferred and most sustainable mechanism for eliminating course costs" (Resolution 03.05 F21);

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has requested 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 to facilitate the adaptation and adoption of open educational resources (Resolution 07.01 F21), effectively advocating for a statewide solution to address local Zero-Textbook-Cost implementation challenges; and

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has established mechanisms for convening discipline faculty for the purposes of making curriculum determinations, including systems for ensuring statewide vetting of developed resources;

**Resolved**, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges works with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, as part of the Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Program, to establish the funding and process necessary to ensure that ZTC resources will remain current and relevant beyond the 2027 reporting deadline established in California Education Code §78052.

Contact: [Julie Bruno](#), ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative

### ***13.01 S22 Ensure the Transparency of Resources Used to Establish Zero-Textbook-Cost (ZTC) Certificates and Degrees***

Whereas, The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, in its 2020 Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Grant Program Legislative Report, has recommended that future ZTC funding should focus on investment priorities, including efforts to do the following:

- Evaluate existing ZTC programs and courses and incorporate culturally relevant content to contribute to advancing equity in teaching and learning;
- Share and adopt existing quality ZTC program and course materials, especially within the same community college district;
- Develop and curate quality ZTC materials for courses that satisfy general education requirements; and
- Post ZTC program courses on the California Virtual Campus Course Exchange and quickly make ZTC programs and courses available to all California community college students;

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges "recognize[s] open educational resources as the preferred and most sustainable mechanism for eliminating course costs" ([Resolution 3.05 F21](#));

Whereas, Resources may only be modified, developed, curated, and freely shared when those resources are openly licensed, and the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges "encourage[s] the establishment of support structures for OER development that require developed resources to be openly licensed and made available to expand the diversity of OER resources" ([Resolution 9.05 S19](#)); and

Whereas, [California Education Code §78052](#) requires that "All open educational resources used as learning materials for a degree developed pursuant to this section shall be added to the California Digital Open Source Library established in Section 66408," yet no public-facing information is available that delineates how colleges that established ZTC certificates and degrees did so, and the list of ZTC degrees developed reveals duplication of resources and degree pathways ([Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Grant Program Legislative Report, CCCCCO 2020](#));

**Resolved**, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges urges the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to require that all recipients of Zero-Textbook-Cost funds delineate how ZTC status was achieved for all courses in a given pathway in a designated public-facing location and ensure that openly-licensed resources are shared as required by law; and

**Resolved**, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourages the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to support the development of a repository for the sharing of open educational resources used to establish Zero-Textbook-Cost certificates and degrees that can be searched by specific course parameters as defined by faculty.

Contact: Michelle Pilati, ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative

### **13.06 S22 Faculty Responsibility for Confirming Course Resource Accuracy**

Whereas, Faculty have both the freedom to select the course materials they deem most appropriate and the responsibility to consider the cost burden as they do so (California Code of Regulations [Title 5 §59404](#));

Whereas, Provisions of the [Higher Education Opportunity Act](#) that went into effect in July 2010 require each institution of higher education receiving federal financial assistance to "disclose, on the institution's Internet course schedule and in a manner of the institution's choosing, the International Standard Book Number and retail price information of required and recommended college textbooks and supplemental materials for each course listed in the institution's course schedule;

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourages local academic senates to advocate for the implementation of a process for consistent, clear, and transparent messaging to students prior to registration regarding all material and supply costs in appropriate locations, including the schedule of classes and the bookstore ([Resolution 20.02 F20](#)); and

Whereas, Textbook information is commonly provided to students prior to and at the time of registration via a section-specific link to the bookstore, and the provided information may in some cases be inaccurate, misleading, or missing;

**Resolved**, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage local academic senates to urge faculty to regularly check the online class schedule to ensure their textbook and class resource information are clear and accurate and that their sections are marked with a zero-cost or low-cost icon, if appropriate.

Contact: [Michelle Pilati](#), ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative

**Note:** This resolution was referred to the Executive Committee (see [Resolution 13.01 R F21](#)) for clarification on intent and how each "Resolved" can be carried out locally and is resubmitted to the delegates for discussion and debate for Spring Plenary Session 2022.