Open Educational Resources (OER) Facts, SB 1359, and the definition of low-cost to students.

First and foremost, we recognize the efforts of all faculty to comply with Board Policy 3.19/3.19P: In their selection of textbooks and course materials, faculty should consider the least costly options when these options are educationally sound, as determined by appropriate faculty.

Contents

The ASCCC Open Education Resources Initiative (OERI)

Website: https://asccc-oeri.org/

The OERI mission is to reduce the cost of educational resources for students by expanding the availability and adoption of high-quality Open Educational Resources (OER). OERI facilitates and coordinates the curation and development of OER texts, ancillaries, and support systems. The OERI facilitates grants to faculty to develop OER for California Community College courses, encouraging the development of resources that meet the needs of our courses as described in their CID. They are interested in proposals from faculty that will satisfy an unmet need. The OERI have focused on collaboration by faculty across multiple Community College districts, the resources need to be accessible, they need to be diverse, and they need to be reviewed by discipline faculty from several different community college districts.

OERI Canvas Course

This course contains OER resources, contact information, definitions and most importantly lists of Open Educational Resources organized by discipline with the CID descriptors. This is different from every other depository in that it is specifically designed to help California Community College faculty locate resources that satisfy the CID courses they are listed under:

https://ccconlineed.instructure.com/courses/4543

Highlighted resources published through the RFP II:

Introduction to Ethnic Studies, covers two CID courses; for C-ID SOCI 150 (Introduction to Race and Ethnicity) (SOC 30 at SRJC) and C-ID SJS 110 (Introduction to Social Justice):

https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Courses/Long_Beach_City_College/Race_and_Ethnic_Relations_in_the_U.S.%3A_An_Intersectional_Approach

Statistics for Social Justice:
https://lor.instructure.com/resources/883f9616cc614634a0230eb094d7922b?shared

Human Anatomy (Created with a focus on using diverse bodies in the main body of the text):
https://bio.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Human_Biology/Book%3A_Human_Biology_(Wakim_and_Grewal)

RFP III

A third RFP is open and faculty can apply for funding to create Open Education Resources.

Proposals for the third RFP are due by Monday, April 19, 2021, 5 pm. For more information:
https://asccc-oeri.org/asccc-oeri-request-for-proposals-iii/

In Brief, What is Open Education Resources (OER)?

OER is a specific classification of materials that can be text, video, Canvas courses, etc. To be an OER the resource needs to be either in the public domain or it needs to have one of four Creative Commons (CC) licenses. There are six different CC licenses available, they are described in detail on the last two pages.

There are five permissions that can be granted in a CC license:

- Retain: Can make your own copies
- Reuse: Can use in a wide range of ways
- Revise: Can adapt, modify, and improve
- Remix: Combine two or more
- Redistribute: Can share with others

Zero Textbook Cost books are textbooks that are free, but they do not necessarily include these permissions.

Why focus on OER?

OER is always available (the resource won't just disappear from the internet), downloadable, savable, printable, the bookstore is allowed to commission the printing of these resources as needed and at a low cost to students. OER allows more freedoms as far as the use goes and more control by the creator of the resource over how their resource can be used.

Resolution to tag courses with resources that are "low cost" to students

SB 1359

SB 1359 requires all California Community Colleges and California State Universities (requests the UC's) to mark in their online schedule of classes all courses that use free, accessible, and high quality OER in courses where all course materials are completely free to students. It also allows for institutionally licensed campus library materials that students have access to use or other properly licensed and adopted materials as long as they comply with the American's with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sect. 12101) and federal Copyright Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-553) This does not count lab fees, calculators, blue books, etc. We complied with the law within the deadline of January 1, 2018 and continue to report on our compliance with the law in annual reports to the OERI.

ASCCC Resolution 13.01, Fall 2017 Academic Senate Plenary: Recognition of Course Sections with Low-Cost Course Material Options

After the passage of the law, ASCCC determined that this did not cover faculty who adopted these free resources but were not able to completely eliminate the material cost to students. For example, online homework paired with OER texts tend to range from $30 - $40 for students per semester. Though the cost to students was significantly reduced, they weren't eliminated.

ASCCC Resolution 13.01, Fall 2017 Academic Senate Plenary: *Recognition of Course Sections with Low-Cost Course Material Options* encourages local Academic Senates to adopt a low cost tag in their schedule of classes

What determines a "low-cost" resource?

Many community colleges have worked on this very issue. In several OERI webinars over the course of the past few years, we discussed and debated what should be included in the definition so we may bring back to our own Senates as complete a picture as we can of all of the issues involved. The two main concerns are the definition of "low cost" and should OER be required in the classification of the low cost tag?

The definition of low cost.
- The Textbook and Instructional Resources Committee, which includes representatives from the SGA, faculty, staff, DRD, and the bookstore, settled on $50 maximum as our definition of low cost.
  - Most online homework systems paired with an OER cost $30-$40 for the student, the $50 maximum would cover that amount.
  - Committee members researched student financial aid and determined that financial aid can cover an average course materials cost of $50 per class assuming a typical student course load.
  - Student representatives on the committee confirmed that a $50 maximum would be beneficial to student success.
- We determined that a single maximum amount (not a sliding scale, a percentage of the cost to students in comparable classes, or some other non-fixed amount) across the whole district would be the only workable plan. Anything more complicated would be difficult to implement, maintain, and would be more confusing to students. We also need to keep in mind the workload that we may be heaping on faculty, staff, or bookstore employees, with whatever definition we decide to use.
- Researching other California community college decisions; De Anza and Foothill set their maximum dollar amount at $50 for their low-cost tag. We confirmed that low cost definitions ranged from $30 to $50 across the community college system.

Should OER be required in the classification of the "low-cost" tag?
- The arguments in favor include that SB 1359 featured as a primary consideration it and the ASCCC plenary resolution required it. This whole enterprise was to promote and encourage OER adoption by faculty. Promote, by getting the word out that OER is a thing, starting conversations like the several we have had in Senate, and to show how many faculty are using OER. Encourage, by showing faculty how many people use OER in similar disciplines to start one on one conversations that may lead faculty to looking into OER as an option in their classes, should a high quality, accessible option exist.
- The argument against; low cost should be low cost, no matter if it carries a CC license or is in the public domain.

We recommend that we match the language and spirit found in the ASCCC Resolution 13.01, Fall 2017 Academic Senate Plenary: *Recognition of Course Sections with Low-Cost Course Material Options*, and to set a fixed maximum cost of required instructional materials to students $50.

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