

Recognition of Course Sections with Low-Cost Course Material Options in the SRJC Online Schedule of Classes

The Academic Senate of Santa Rosa Junior College

April 21, 2021

Whereas, Resolution 13.01, by Michelle Pilati¹, outlined the need for students to have access to low-cost instructional materials and that the Senate Bill 1359 (Block, 2016) already requires all California Community Colleges to clearly label in the online schedule of classes all sections that exclusively use digital course materials that are free of charge to students;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for the Santa Rosa Junior College should support efforts by faculty and departments to increase student access to high-quality, accessible, Open Educational Resources (OER)² and reduce the cost of course materials and supplies for students in course sections for which quality, accessible Open Educational Resources may not be available to accomplish zero cost for students;

Resolved, That the Santa Rosa Junior College District, by Fall 2021, implement a mechanism for identifying course sections that employ low-cost course materials, that comply with Board Policy 3.19/3.19P³; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for the Santa Rosa Junior College define low-cost course materials as materials (such as, but not limited to, textbook, workbooks, lab manuals, online homework, and required printouts) whose total combined cost does not exceed \$50.

¹ Resolution 13.01, Fall 2017 Academic Senate Plenary: *Recognition of Course Sections with Low-Cost Course Material Options*, Michelle Pilati, <https://asccc.org/resolutions/recognition-course-sections-low-cost-course-material-options>, November 2017.

² OER as defined by a resource that is either in the public domain or has one of the following Creative Commons licenses; Attribution (CC BY), Attribution ShareAlike (CC BY-SA), Attribution-NoDerivs (CC BY-ND), or Attribution-NonCommercial (CC BY-NC) <https://creativecommons.org/>

³ SRJC Board Policy 3.19: <https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/santarosa/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies#>, 3.19P: <https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/santarosa/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies#>

For Reference:

Recognition of Course Sections with Low-Cost Course Material Options

Fall 2017

Resolution Number: 13.01

Contact: [Michelle Pilati](#)

Category: General Concerns

Whereas, The significant rise in costs of textbooks is a barrier to college attendance, student access, and student success, and many colleges are interested in reducing the cost of textbooks to increase student access to necessary course materials;

Whereas, The intent of the College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015 (AB 798, Bonilla, 2015) is to reduce costs for college students by encouraging faculty to accelerate the adoption of lower cost, high-quality, open educational resources (OER), and the Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Grant Program focuses on the development of degrees with no associated text costs;

Whereas, Senate Bill 1359 (Block, 2016) requires all segments of public higher education in California to “Clearly highlight, by means that may include a symbol or logo in a conspicuous place on the online campus course schedule, the courses that exclusively use digital course materials that are free of charge to students and may have a low-cost option for print versions” (CEC 66406.9.) as of January, 2018; and

Whereas, Efforts to substantially decrease the costs of course materials should be recognized and, in some instances, reducing costs to zero may not be immediately possible;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges support efforts to increase student access to high-quality open educational resources and reduce the cost of course materials and supplies for students in course sections for which open educational resources may not be available to accomplish zero cost for students; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage colleges to implement a mechanism for identifying course sections that employ low-cost course materials.