

Resolutions Re: Open Ed Resources

for Consideration by the Foothill College Academic Senate in Spring 2021

For context: 13.01 S21, Institutionalizing Open Educational Resources, was passed by the State Academic Senate at the Spring 2021 Plenary:

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourages local academic senates to develop mechanisms to encourage faculty to consider open educational resources (OER) when developing or revising courses and to document the use of OER on the course outline of record (Resolution 09.05 SP 19);

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recommends that faculty consider OER adoption, including customizable teaching materials, as a measure toward achieving equity and facilitating student success (Resolution 09.05 SP 19);

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourages local senates and bargaining units to work with their administrations to allow the use of sabbaticals and other professional development opportunities for the development of accessible open educational resources;

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recommends that local senates work with their administrators to incorporate equity as a foundational value into college educational master plans and strategic plans (Resolution 19.03 SP 16);

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage local academic senates to collaborate with other constituencies to integrate open educational resources into their colleges' guiding resources, including institutional goals, educational master plan, equity plan, accreditation institutional self-evaluation report, board policies, and administrative procedures or regulations; and,

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges curate a collection of resources to assist local senates in pursuing the institutionalization of open educational resources at the local level no later than Spring 2022.

The following resolutions are in response to the asks from that and the previous ASCCC resolutions referenced within it. While we (Foothill Academic Senate) could theoretically combine all asks and responses into a single resolution, for the sake of clarity and discussion it may be advantageous to split them into separate resolutions.

Institutional Support for Including OER as an Action to Mitigate Equity Gaps and Increase Student Success

Whereas, the Foothill College Academic Senate is committed to equity and supports the vision and goals in the college's "[Strategic Vision for Equity](#)," which includes the goal that, "There are few to no incidental costs associated with being a student, including but not limited to textbooks, printing, and parking costs;"

Whereas, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has also formally acknowledged OER adoption as a measure towards achieving student equity and success (Resolution 09.05 SP19);

Whereas, the Foothill College Academic Senate recognizes that textbook costs are prohibitive for many students, that shifting textbook costs to the college is unsustainable, that open educational resources (OER) are continually improving in quality and coverage, and that reducing textbook costs aligns with our equity goals;

Whereas, it is widely recognized that adopting open educational resources (OER) may be more complicated and time-consuming than the adoption of a commercial textbook due to factors such as the lack of an existing OER text-equivalent, the need to modify or update an OER text- equivalent, the need to curate resources to create a text-equivalent, or the lack of ancillaries;

Resolved, that the Foothill College Academic Senate recognizes that adoption of OER may require substantial work in excess of what is needed to adopt a commercial text and therefore deserves appropriate compensation such as the provision of reassigned time, stipends, and the support of classified professionals for further modification and the development of ancillary materials;

Resolved, that the Foothill College Academic Senate requests Foothill College allocate financial resources in the forms of stipends and/or reassigned time no later than Fall 2021 to adequately support faculty who are transitioning to OER for their courses;

Resolved, that the Foothill College Academic Senate collaborate with FA, the Office of Equity and Professional Development, and the Office of Instruction to explore options for providing stipends and/or reassigned time to adequately support faculty who are transitioning to OER for their courses.

The next resolution addresses the potential to institutionalize the use of OER as part of our curriculum processes.

Explore Options to Leverage College Curriculum Processes to Support Faculty to Explore and Adopt OER

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recommends that faculty consider OER adoption, including customizable teaching materials, as a measure toward achieving equity and facilitating student success;

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourages local academic senates to develop mechanisms to encourage faculty to consider open educational resources (OER) when developing or revising courses and to document the use of OER on the course outline of record (Resolution 09.05 SP 19);

Resolved, that The Foothill College Academic Senate collaborate with the College Curriculum Committee and Office of Instruction to update the Course Outline of Record software so faculty can easily indicate which representative texts are OER, and

Resolved, that the Foothill College Academic Senate collaborate with the College Curriculum Committee and the Office of Instruction to explore options for supporting faculty to consider OER as a built-in part of the curriculum creation and curriculum review processes;

Resolved, that the Foothill College Academic Senate collaborate with the Office of Professional Development to develop a web page and/or Canvas site resource for information and guidance to faculty considering adding OERs to their CORs.

FOR REFERENCE:

ASCCC 09.05 SP 19: Support the Development of Open Educational Resources (OER)

Whereas, Resolution 13.03 F15 asserted that “incentivizing faculty to adopt any specific instructional materials over others could potentially compromise quality by encouraging or pressuring faculty to adopt materials that are less pedagogically sound” and opposed the provision of direct compensation to faculty for the adoption of open educational resources in the context of the implementation of AB 798 (Bonilla, 2015);

Whereas, Resolution 12.02 S17 encouraged “...local senates and bargaining units to work with their administration to allow the use of sabbaticals and other professional development opportunities for the development of accessible open educational resources”;

Whereas, Resolution 16.01 S15 encouraged faculty “to review and consider the adoption of appropriate open educational resources textbooks while adhering to the highest professional standards and ensuring appropriate levels of academic rigor for their courses”; and

Whereas, Adopting open educational resources (OER) may be more complicated and time-consuming than the adoption of a commercial textbook due to factors such as the lack of an existing OER text-equivalent, the need to modify or update an OER text- equivalent, the need to curate resources to create a text-equivalent, or the lack of ancillaries;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recommend that faculty should consider open educational resources (OER) adoption, including customizable teaching materials, as a measure towards achieving equity and facilitating student success;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recognize that adoption of OER may require substantial work that exceeds what is needed to adopt a commercial text and will therefore benefit from the provision of reassigned time, stipends, and the support of classified professionals for further modification and the development of ancillary materials;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges develop sample structures for support for colleges to consider that recognize the time involved in not only developing OER and associated ancillaries, but in researching the availability of OER, conducting a comprehensive review of OER, and updating existing OER; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage 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.

Infusing Equity throughout College Processes

ASCCC Sp16 **Resolution Number** 19.03

Whereas, the Chancellor's Office's Student Equity Fact Sheet acknowledges that achievement gaps for disproportionately impacted groups are deeply influenced by systemic institutional practices in higher education, including "college and/or district accreditation, educational master planning, program review, and basic skills planning processes," as well as "planning, budgeting, and the delivery of instruction and services" [1],[2],[3];

Whereas, There is vital importance in examining systemic institutional and pedagogical practices and how they may contribute to disproportionate impact;

Whereas, Making progress on closing the achievement gap between disproportionately impacted groups must involve examining and questioning institutional and pedagogical practices and adopting holistic and institution-wide approaches that are responsive to impacted populations; and

Whereas, According to the Transfer, Articulation, and Student Success Committee of the ASCCC's Survey on Existing Services for Disenfranchised Students, many colleges do not offer services that support the success of disenfranchised students and the services that are available tend to be scattered and cohort-specific[4];

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work with the Chancellor's Office to ensure that student equity planning efforts include practices that involve questioning and challenging institutional systems that contribute to disproportionate impact;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recommend that local senates work with their administrators to incorporate equity as a foundational value into college educational master plans and strategic plans; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work with the Chancellor's Office to develop a set of effective practices for equity planning.