

2019 ASCCC Spring Session Adopted Resolutions - OER and OER-Related

9.03 S19 Documenting Open Educational Resources Options in Course Outline of Record

Whereas, In the California Community Colleges, the course outline of record is the official document that establishes, among other things, the content, objectives, and instructional materials for a given course and is the basis for articulation;

Whereas, Both the California State University Chancellor's Office and University of California Office of the President are on record establishing that the use of open educational resources (OER) that are comparable to commercial texts with respect to currency and stability does not jeopardize articulation; and

Whereas, Faculty who wish to use OER may be hesitant to do so if such options are not explicitly indicated on the course outline of record, and faculty who wish to specify OER on course outlines of record may be unclear as to how to do so;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges develop guidelines for how to indicate the option of using open educational resources (OER) on course outlines of record; and

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

9.04 S19 Ensure the Accessibility of Educational Materials

Whereas, All California community colleges are mandated to adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 sections 504 and 508, which require all educational printed and digital materials to be accessible;

Whereas, The California Community Colleges have Information Computer Technology Accessibility Standards including both the U.S. section 508 standards and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (WCAG 2.0) that provide criteria for making information and communication technology more accessible;

Whereas, Resolution 09.10 F15¹⁶ directed the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) to “provide professional guidance on effective practices

¹⁶ <https://asccc.org/resolutions/professional-guidelines-and-effective-practices-using-publisher-generated-course>

for the use of publisher generated materials by faculty in all modalities of courses and report to the body by Spring 2017” yet did not explicitly seek guidance with respect to ensuring that all educational materials are accessible as required by law; and

Whereas, The 2018 ASCCC paper *Ensuring An Effective Online Program: A Faculty Perspective*¹⁷ recommends the following:

Colleges should have a distance or online education committee under the purview of the local academic senate to deal with academic and professional matters related to courses taught online. Responsibilities of this committee would include the development of recommendations and securing approval from appropriate faculty groups regarding instructional design standards for online courses and participation in the development of recommendations on policies regarding the distance education program, including policies for the ongoing professional development of distance education instructors, policies regarding training in the use of the course management system, and policies for ensuring that all courses and materials are accessible to all people with disabilities;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recommend that local senates work within existing committee structures and procedures to ensure dedication of resources supporting appropriate training and technical support to guarantee accessibility of course materials;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges urge local senates to develop local policies to adopt only course materials, including supplemental or optional materials, that are accessible for all California community college students in alignment with the World Wide Web Consortium’s (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG); and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges prepare and bring to the body for consideration a paper on accessible course materials that addresses best practices for faculty in selecting and using accessible educational content by spring 2021.

9.05 S19 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);

¹⁷ <https://www.asccc.org/papers/ensuring-effective-online-program-faculty-perspective>

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.

13.01 S19 Develop Recommendations for the Implementation of a No-Cost Designation in Course Schedules

Whereas, SB 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” (California Education Code §66406.9) as of January, 2018;

Whereas, Determinations of what course sections qualify for a no-cost identifier as required by SB 1359 (Block, 2016) are subject to interpretation, with some colleges

opting to interpret the legislation very strictly and others opting to highlight all courses with no associated costs (i.e., including those courses that have never required a text); and

Whereas, Developing guidance and suggested practices for local senates to consider for the implementation of SB 1359 (Block, 2016) may result in appropriate consistencies across the colleges;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges investigate the approaches used to implement SB 1359 (Block, 2016) across all segments of higher education in California and similar efforts in other states; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges develop suggested guidelines, policies, and practices for implementation of SB 1359 (Block, 2016) no later than Spring of 2020.

13.02 S19 Support for Faculty Open Educational Resources Coordinators

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) has urged local academic senates to identify a local open educational resources (OER) point-person to act as a liaison to facilitate OER-related communication between the college and the ASCCC (Resolution 17.02 F18);

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges' Open Educational Resources (OER) Initiative is supporting the growth of OER use across the colleges by developing resources and supporting local OER liaisons who may or may not receive support from their colleges;

Whereas, Various opportunities for obtaining funding for local OER efforts, including grants made available by the California Open Educational Resources Council, have required that a coordinator be identified to oversee the work; and

Whereas, Significant increases in OER usage have been reported when a local advocate has dedicated time to support OER adoption;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges develop a collection of resources documenting the value of supporting local faculty open educational resources coordinators and associated resources (e.g., job descriptions, roles, and responsibilities); and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage local colleges to identify and support a faculty open educational resources coordinator.