

Resolution 21-4: Support Faculty Adoption of OER, ZTC, and Low-Cost Textbooks

Whereas BP and AP 2510 require the governing board of trustees to consult collegially with the Academic Senate on academic and professional matters; and “consult collegially” means that the governing board of trustees develops policies on academic and professional matters through relying primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senate;

Whereas standards or policies regarding student preparation and success are academic and professional matters;

Whereas, the significant rise in the cost of textbooks and other instructional materials is a barrier to college attendance, student access, and student success;

Whereas, the intent of the College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015 (AB 798, Bonilla) is to reduce costs for college students by encouraging faculty to accelerate the adoption of lower-cost, high-quality, textbooks and other instructional materials;

Whereas, Open Educational Resources (OER) offer high quality teaching and learning resources that have been released under an intellectual property license, such as a Creative Commons license, that permits their free use, significantly reducing the expected price of annual textbook costs for students;

Whereas, Low-Cost textbooks offer an equitable alternative to OER, providing students with textbooks that cost \$40 or less;

Whereas, individual faculty have the academic freedom and choice to select instructional materials that are most appropriate for a course, which may include the adoption of lower-cost, high-quality textbooks and instructional materials;

Whereas, Education Code section 66406.9 (effective 1/2019) requires California Community Colleges to clearly highlight in a conspicuous place in the online course schedule courses that have adopted Zero-Cost textbooks;

Whereas, local Academic Senate Resolution 19-3 and ASCCC Resolution 13.01 resolve that courses which have adopted Low-Cost textbooks should be similarly highlighted in the online course schedule;

Whereas, the new system, PAWS self-service, can highlight with one logo the course sections which have adopted Zero-Cost textbooks but cannot highlight course sections which have adopted Low-Cost textbooks in the same fashion;

Whereas, designating courses that have adopted Zero and Low-Cost textbooks in the online schedule drives enrollment and increases faculty’s incentive to adopt less expensive resources;

Whereas, the development of Zero-Cost and Low-Cost Degrees and Certificates will reduce costs for students and promote the attainment of core competencies;

RESOLVED, That the Hartnell College Academic Senate support faculty efforts to increase student access to lower-cost high-quality textbooks and other instructional materials;

RESOLVED, That the Hartnell College Academic Senate support the designation of courses that have adopted Zero-Cost and Low-Cost textbooks in the online course schedule;

RESOLVED, That the Hartnell College Academic Senate support the development of Zero-Cost and Low-Cost Degrees and Certificates.