

ASCCC OER Resolutions for 2021 Fall Plenary

Consent Calendar resolutions and amendments are marked with an *.

*7.01 F21 System-Level Zero-Textbook-Cost Resources

*17.01 F21 Local Senate Policies Regarding Textbook Adoption

3.04 F21 Develop Statewide Recommendation for Definition of Low-Cost Course Materials

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges supports 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 encourages colleges to implement a mechanism for identifying course sections that employ low-cost course materials (Fall 2017, Resolution 13.01);

Whereas, Recognizing the need for an alternative to the legislated zero-cost designation (California Education Code §66406.9), some colleges and districts have implemented a low-cost designation with the definition of low-cost not being readily available or varying between less than \$30.00 to less than \$50.00;

Whereas, Efforts to mark course sections as zero-cost or low-cost should be informed by students' perspectives since the designations are intended to inform students of the financial burden of a given course section; and

Whereas, Students may register for courses at more than one college, and various definitions of low-cost at different institutions can be confusing and even misleading for students;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work with the Student Senate for California Community Colleges and California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to identify a recommended definition of "low-cost" to be considered for adoption throughout the California Community College system.

3.05 F21 Zero Means Zero Textbook Cost

Whereas, Zero-Textbook-Cost (ZTC) refers to instances in which textbooks are available to students at no cost, and California Education Code §66406.9 requires that California community colleges "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," providing a mechanism for marking course sections that are zero-textbook-cost;

Whereas, California Education Code §78052, which originally established a zero-textbook-cost degree grant program in the California Community Colleges system, states that “Zero-textbook-cost degrees’ means community college associate degrees or career technical education certificates earned entirely by completing courses that eliminate conventional textbook costs by using alternative instructional materials and methodologies,” and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office has recommended that future ZTC funds should “ensure the ZTC programs and courses are truly zero cost to the students by eliminating hidden costs” (Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Grant Program Legislative Report, CCCCCO 2020);

Whereas, The 2021 revisions to California Education Code §78052 redefine “zero-textbook-cost degrees” to allow for “low-cost” to be recognized as “zero” in ill-defined instances, stating, “For purposes of this paragraph, ‘zero-textbook-cost degrees’ may include a low-cost degree option if a no-cost equivalent option is not available or cannot be developed”; and

Whereas, While open educational resources (OER) provide a mechanism to reduce or eliminate costs for instructional materials and textbooks, in some instances eliminating costs using OER is not possible because instructional resources require the use of such works as photographs, literature, and other materials that are under copyright;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work to further communicate that zero-textbook-cost has a clear and specific meaning by affirming California Education Code’s original definition of zero-textbook-cost that refers to “courses that eliminate conventional textbook costs by using alternative instructional materials and methodologies,” and recognize that a variety of approaches can be used to bring course costs for students to zero, including college library subscriptions, purchasing access to copyrighted resources, and purchasing print resources;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recognize open educational resources as the preferred and most sustainable mechanism for eliminating course costs but acknowledge that instances will arise in which eliminating costs is not possible;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges assert that while open educational resources can reduce or eliminate instructional materials and textbook costs, resources should be dedicated to convening discipline faculty to determine the most sustainable mechanisms for reducing the costs of course resources; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage the use of approaches that significantly reduce course resource costs such that course sections with a low-cost can obtain zero-textbook-cost status by virtue of the cost being absorbed by the college, district, or the state.

+3.05.01 F21 Amend

Amend the 3rd Resolved

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage the use of approaches that significantly reduce course resource costs such that any course sections ~~with a low cost~~ can obtain zero-textbook-cost status by virtue of the cost of resources for that course being absorbed by the college, district, or the state.

Contact: Sheila Lynch, Rio Hondo College, Area C

***7.01 F21 System-Level Zero-Textbook-Cost Resources**

Whereas, The legislative intent of California Education Code §78052 is “that community college districts develop and implement zero-textbook-cost degrees and develop open educational resources for courses to reduce the overall cost of education for students and decrease the time it takes students to complete degree programs”;

Whereas, California Education Code §78052 requires that districts “Develop degrees with consideration for sustainability after grant funding is exhausted, including how content is updated and presented,” “ensure compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (Public Law 104-197) and the federal Copyright Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-553),” “develop and implement a degree that other community college districts can use or adapt,” and “ensure faculty shall have flexibility to update and customize degree content as necessary within the parameters of this program”;

Whereas, The option to update and customize course content is only available when course resources are openly licensed; and

Whereas, Accessibility and licensing concerns may be barriers to resource adoption, curation, and development;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges request that the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, as part of the Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Program, explore the provision of centralized accessibility and licensing support to local colleges and districts.

13.01 F21 Faculty Responsibility for Confirming Course Resource Accuracy

Whereas, Faculty have both the freedom to select the course materials they deem most appropriate and the responsibility to consider the cost burden as they do so (California Code of Regulations Title 5 §59404);

Whereas, Provisions of the Higher Education Opportunity Act that went into effect in July 2010 require each institution of higher education receiving federal financial assistance to “disclose, on the institution’s Internet course schedule and in a manner of

the institution's choosing, the International Standard Book Number and retail price information of required and recommended college textbooks and supplemental materials for each course listed in the institution's course schedule;

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourages local academic senates to advocate for the implementation of a process for consistent, clear, and transparent messaging to students prior to registration regarding all material and supply costs in appropriate locations, including the schedule of classes and the bookstore (Resolution 20.02 F20); and

Whereas, Textbook information is commonly provided to students prior to and at the time of registration via a section-specific link to the bookstore, and the provided information may in some cases be inaccurate, misleading, or missing;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage local academic senates to urge faculty to submit their course resource information in a timely manner, regularly check the class schedule to ensure their sections are marked with a zero-cost or low-cost icon if appropriate, and ensure that their textbook and class resource information is clear and accurate.

+13.01.01 F21 Amend 13.01

Delete the Current Resolved

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage local academic senates to urge faculty to submit their course resource information in a timely manner, regularly check the class schedule to ensure their sections are marked with a zero-cost or low-cost icon if appropriate and ensure that their textbook and class resource information is clear and accurate.

Add a new Resolved

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage local academic senates to remind their constituents that the accuracy and timeliness of information in the schedule of classes helps their students succeed, especially for all zero and low-cost designated courses, and develop processes to support this effort.

Contact: Gregory Beyrer, Cosumnes River College, Area A

***17.01 F21 Local Senate Policies Regarding Textbook Adoption**

Whereas, Faculty have both the academic freedom to select the course materials they deem most appropriate (Resolution 19.01 F04) and the responsibility to consider the cost burden as they do so (Title 5, **§ 59404**);

Whereas, Provisions of the Higher Education Opportunity Act require each institution of higher education receiving federal financial assistance to “disclose, on the institution’s Internet course schedule and in a manner of the institution’s choosing, the International Standard Book Number and retail price information of required and recommended college textbooks and supplemental materials for each course listed in the institution’s course schedule used for preregistration and registration purposes”;

Whereas, California Education Code §66406.9 requires the California Community Colleges 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”; and

Whereas, Students who register for a course and act on the available course information, purchasing a nonreturnable text or choosing a section that is identified as no-cost or low-cost, should not be negatively impacted in the event that the instructor of record changes;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California for Community Colleges provide guidance to local academic senates in developing policies that both protect students and uphold academic freedom in cases where changes to faculty class assignments result in changes in required course resources by Fall of 2022; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California for Community Colleges encourage local academic senates to adopt policies that both protect students and uphold academic freedom in cases where changes to faculty class assignments result in changes in required course resources.