2018 Academic Senate Textbook Affordability Task Force
YEAR END REPORT   December 2018

Task Force Objectives

Specific issues for this task force inquiry include policies on textbook affordability, the propriety of off-campus exclusive agreements and the possibility of alternative arrangements with the new bookstore management company, and the use of open educational resources ("OER").

Membership

- Abby Wood (Paralegal, Co-Chair)
- Hong Guo (Library, Co-Chair)
- Jenny Leung (Chemistry)
- Sandra Weatherilt (Nutrition)
- Joe Denny (Electronics)
- *John Norvell (Anthropology)
- *Ed Estes (Business Administration)
- #Michelle Ravel (Associated Student)
- #Brian Moon (Associated Student)

*Due to scheduling conflicts, John and Ed couldn't continue in Fall 2018.
#The Associated Students graduated in June 2018.

Summary of Task Force Work

The task force met three times in Spring and five times in Fall 2018 in addition to several subgroup or individual meetings with the bookstore manager, Suzanne Luetjen, and Day & Nite owner, Amin Davari. We met with the Director of Financial Aid, Chau Dao, to learn about the book voucher program. Members also contacted Cengage to find out about their new subscription-based service for college course materials, Cengage Unlimited. Additionally, we talked to IT and FA to inquire on related issues.

In the Spring Semester the task force focused on identifying issues related to textbooks availability and affordability, and finding clarifications in various areas related to textbooks. We researched state and local textbook guidelines and recommendations, specifically,

State:

- Guidelines for Required Instructional Materials in the California Community Colleges 2013
- AB 798 (Bonita) College Textbook Affordability Act 2015
- SB 1059 Public postsecondary education: course materials 2016

- State Academic Senate <u>Resolution 06-05 Support College Textbook Affordability Act</u> 2015

College:

- Mt. SAC Academic Senate Resolution <u>2016-01 In Support of Open Educational Resources</u> 2016
- Recommendations from the 2008-2009 Task Force
- Notes from the 2014 Student Equity Plan Textbook Team

In the Fall Semester the task force focused on revising the Mt. SAC Textbook Adoption Guidelines following the State 2013 Guidelines for Required Instructional Materials ("Guidelines"). The current Mt. SAC guidelines were developed by the 2008-2009 Textbook Task Force and adopted by the Academic Senate in May 2011. Additionally, we created a Textbook Adoption Roadmap for faculty to offer specific directions in making their textbook adoption decisions as required by Section 59404 of the Guidelines. We drafted recommendations to address the issues the task force was given.

Specific Issues identified around the Bookstore, with off-campus agreements, and OER

Bookstore
- Insufficient copies of textbooks available in the bookstore for timely purchase, which negatively impacts student success.
- Book vouchers: If a student has a voucher and can only purchase at the bookstore, the student is disadvantaged if the bookstore does not have the title available.
- Lack of rental titles compared to what was initially promised.
- Communication issues between the bookstore and faculty and students.
- Students charged a price more than 30% higher than publisher's rate
   - Example: Organic chemistry textbook where the publisher charges $199 and the students are charged $346 at the bookstore.

Off-campus Agreements

- The bookstore may not be able to obtain enough copies in a timely manner when materials are published off-campus.
- Students who have book vouchers can't use them to purchase lab manuals and other materials that are published off-campus.

OER

- Request FA to negotiate incentives for faculty to develop and update OER
- Hard copy costs for professors
- Ownership and copyright issues
- Lack of online homework and other auxiliary resources
- Quality concerns in some areas
- Accreditation-related concerns for distance learning courses
- Lack of campus support for OER for all concerned - library, faculty, and students

Recommendations

1. Publish and promote the revised college textbook affordability guidelines

2. Publish and promote the Textbook Adoption Roadmap

3. Encourage faculty to publish their materials at both the bookstore and off-campus places such as Day & Nite

4. Create a standing textbook committee that includes faculty, bookstore representatives and students to address ongoing issues

5. Request the bookstore to publish policies on their website regarding textbook availability, buyback, and rental information

6. Provide professional development opportunities to faculty concerning financial aid and textbooks

7. Create a college-wide OER committee to develop an OER plan including, but not limited to, goals, funding, support, training, and other low- or no-cost resources that may be available

8. Request Student Services to develop processes and disseminate information to students regarding the textbook process.