

ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Whereas, SWC Academic Senate is interested in reducing the cost of textbooks to increase student access to necessary course materials; and

Whereas, Adoption of open educational resources (OER) is 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 or create textbooks and/or ancillary materials; and

Whereas, The need for institutional commitment to student equity include administrative support in the form of an OER Campus Coordinator; and

Whereas, The need for equity and increasing student success is as imperative as the need for faculty to adopt textbooks and educational materials that adhere to the appropriate level of academic rigor for their courses;

Resolved, That SWC Academic Senate support efforts to increase student access to high-quality open educational resources, and reduce the cost of textbooks and supplies for students in course sections for which open educational resources can be adopted, curated or developed to accomplish cost savings for students;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate recognize that adoption of OER may require substantial work that exceeds what is needed to adopt a commercial text, and faculty will therefore benefit from reassignment time, stipends, and the support of classified professionals for the development of textbooks and ancillary materials; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate recognize the time involved in developing OER and associated ancillaries, includes researching the availability of OER, conducting a comprehensive review of OER, and updating existing OER and therefore recommends the development of an OER Campus Coordinator and ADA compliance support; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate recommend that faculty should consider adoption, curation or creation of high-quality OER textbooks, including customizable teaching materials, as a measure towards closing equity gaps and facilitating student success.