

ALS Subcommittee

Meeting of March 6, 2017, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Room SF 328

Minutes

Present: Hendrix Erhahon, Eduina Escobar, James Murray, Aline Soules, Douglas Taylor, Mitch Watnik, Missy Wright, Jingwen Yang

Absent with regrets: Coco Napolis

Absent: Cathey Hurtt, Dayrll Lewis

Guest: Jaime Scobel

1. Introduction of CIC representative
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Report of the Chair/ALS Coordinator

Watnik will represent CIC on the committee for 2016-2017.

- a. AB 798 grant progress

A check has finally been sent from the Chancellor's Office, which is administering the AB 798 grant for the CSU. The money was originally due by the end of November.

Faculty are essentially on track with converting courses to OER or at least a 30% reduction in cost. A few courses have been cancelled, a few have been moved to a different term, and a few have been added.

Once the spring list of courses is finalized, budget will be reviewed to see if a few more faculty can be offered incentives for 2017-2018. A progress report on the grant is due at the end of this fiscal year. A final report is due in mid-2018.

- b. OLC Conference/ALS Coordinators Conference, Feb. 16 & 17, 2017

There was a one-day Online Learning Consortium on OER on Feb. 16 and, the following day, a smaller conference for CSU ALS Coordinators. Much of the discussion dealt with issues that we have discussed before—marketing, recruiting, acknowledgment events, surveys—but two key issues were particularly noteworthy.

SB 1359, the Public Postsecondary Education: Course Materials Bill (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1359), requires that, by Jan. 1, 2018, community colleges and the CSU note on class schedules those classes which are fully converted to fully-online, fully-free materials for their

courses. Watnik proposed that the ALS Subcommittee draft a memo for CIC to move forward to Senate. Additional suggestions for increasing awareness about the bill included communicating through ASI, an email through Linda Dobb, and an ad in The Pioneer. Identifying courses will be a challenge.

The other was a discussion between Soules and Leslie Kennedy of the Chancellor's Office (Gerry Hanley's right hand person for Affordable Learning Solutions). She was concerned about the fact that CSUEB did not apply for a Chancellor's Office grant for 2016-2017. CSUEB time was taken in preparing for the AB 798 grant. Also, the RFP for the C.O. grant came out only one week before it was due. She urged that CSUEB submit for 2017-2018.

4. Old business

a. Publisher survey

Two responses, both from Pearson, were received, despite multiple requests. This will be dropped for now.

b. Ideas for encouraging other faculty to join the OER/ALS movement

University of Maryland University College claims to be all-OER. Soules will investigate this and query UMUC about how they achieved that end goal.

SDSU and UC, Davis both have programs that provide students with digital access to materials from approx. one week before class through add/drop period, after which students must 'opt in' or 'opt out' of the textbook. There are significant discounts for these books at this time. The bookstore staff discussed making opt in the default. The committee members, however, preferred the 'opt out' default, not wanting students to find a charge on their credit cards that would need to be reimbursed. This was echoed by the ASI President. On our campus, bookstore staff has discussed with the Provost Pearson's "Digital Access" program, which is similar. There was a question about the wait list students and Murray advocated for including them, too, explaining how important it was for those students to have early access; however, those students are not registered, so this may not happen.

Another suggestion for recruiting faculty to OER were to have one faculty member in a department present to the rest of the faculty in that same department to convince potential recruits of the quality of the OER materials, which is a major concern for many faculty.

Another was to secure more reviewers to validate existing OER. They would need some compensation for their review time.

5. New business

a. Availability of Chancellor's Office grant (RFP deadline March 31)

From the conversation with Kennedy on Feb. 17, it's clear that the C.O. wants CSUEB to apply for the 2017-2018 ALS grant. While this year's RFP was issued during the mid-February conference, Soules explained her reluctance, which is related to managing the AB 798 grant and also coping with the now-onerous reporting requirements of the C.O. grant (extensive details about books dropped—helped by Escobar, with thanks—and OER adopted—which data can only be provided by faculty and is difficult to get as well as discouraging faculty from participating).

One possibility is to ask for a grant for faculty who might want to create an OER book from scratch, but much depends on whether the C.O. would support a fiscal incentive of suitable size (e.g., \$2,500/per creator). Faculty would need to be lined up *before* applying. Another possibility might be to secure reviewers. Soules will discuss this with Kennedy; however, if it is not possible either to offer sufficient financial incentive or, after discussion, recruit sufficient faculty commitment before the RFP deadline, no application will be submitted.

b. Discussion of contents for annual report to CIC/Academic Senate

The ALS Subcommittee submitted a report through CIC to Senate two years prior, but it didn't reach the Senate and was stopped at the ExCom level. Soules would like to prepare another report as an "informational" item to remind them of the work of the ALS Subcommittee. Watnik suggested sending it "To the Senate via CIC."

6. Other business: Proposal to Senate through CIC for SB 1359

Watnik provided a draft proposal regarding SB 1359 (mentioned in the Chair's report) to send forward to CIC for forwarding to the Senate. Moved Murray, Seconded Erhahon. After brief discussion, it was approved unanimously.