

## ALS Subcommittee

**Meeting of October 16, 2017, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Room SF 523**

### Minutes

**Present:**

Stephanie Alexander, Eduina Escobar, Coco Napolis, Aline Soules, Douglas Taylor, Missy Wright, Jingwen Yang

**Guests:**

Patrick Fleming (for James Murray), Jaime Scobel

**Absent with regrets:**

James Murray, Samantha Quiambao

1. Introductions
2. Selection of Chair and Secretary  
Chair: Aline (Yang/Alexander),  
Secretary: Wright (volunteer/accepted)
3. Update on Affordable Learning Solutions efforts at CSUEB

This is year 2 of the AB 798 grant (\$31,000 for two years). There is also approx. \$5,400 from an earlier C.O. grant.

CSUEB is now more diligent about checking that faculty's additional funds do not exceed the 25% limit on income above base salary. The process of checking must be complete before faculty begin work on any supplementary project. As this is taking more time than anticipated, there's concern that faculty will not be approved before the quarter when they intend to convert their course(s)..

There's a conference on textbooks in Anaheim in October; however, the ALS Coordinator cannot attend. There are also monthly webinars, which the ALS Coordinator attends or views the recording.

Last year, there was also a grant possibility from the C.O. in addition to AB 798; however, CSUEB did not apply. The workload was too heavy and the increase in reporting requirements too onerous.

Last year, AB 798 indicated that current AB 798 participants would be eligible for a new round of AB 798 grants when this two-year grant was over. If that still holds, it is anticipated that there will be an application date around February of 2018.

Although our ASI president could not attend today's meeting (at the last moment), she indicated that, in future, she would send a representative. Wright expressed interest in hearing stories and learning how to "start small."

A workshop is being planned for ALS with a panel that may include Fleming, if his schedule permits. Soules is currently recruiting another panelist.

#### 4. New Business

- a. Discussion of Recruitment of Faculty to Participate in ALS initiative, including how to move forward if financial incentives are no longer present

Fleming spoke about his open book which resides in Libre (UC, Davis host) and his own personal computer. One question related to how updates that would benefit all users could be "pushed" to all users. There doesn't seem to be a way to do this, unless someone updates the book directly in Libre. Taylor asked about how misinformation could be prevented. As the Creative Commons license for Libre books is CC-NC-SA (open to non-commercial, share alike), this doesn't seem possible.

Taylor suggested partnering with Faculty Development and perhaps creating a FLC for Affordable Learning Solutions.

Bookstore staff spoke about the textbook program begun at San Diego State and also being used at UC, Davis. Students have access to a digital form of their text from one week prior to the start of classes through the end of the add/drop period. At that point, they are sent a message to take action. They can opt out. If they do not, they are charged. Prices are generally lower because more students take the book and the increase in the number of books sold enables the publisher to lower the price to some extent.

In the spring 2017 meeting, the ALS Subcommittee discussed this program, expressing concern on the "opt out" method of handling the book at the end of the free access period. In the May 8, 2017 report, the Subcommittee expressed concern and suggested that students should be asked to "opt in," not "opt out."

In the ensuing discussion, Soules will follow up on the "opt in/opt out" issue with Watnik on the disposition of the report. Alexander will be asked to follow up with CIC's current chair, Rhabyt.

Scobel explained that with "opt out," the Bookstore has the ability to issue refunds on a case-by-case basis and, in fact, does so under other circumstances (students dropping out of school for family emergencies, etc.). This mitigates the "opt out" issue to some extent.

Scobel also noted that there were more digital purchases now than in the past. Soules suggested that, in some cases, students took the e-text to use at home, but used the print version, if one was available through library reserves. Soules also noted that e-books in the library were changing. With more faculty using library e-books as texts, there continues to be the issue of ensuring a reasonable number of simultaneous users (if faculty tell the library of their intention). Also, some e-books now come with “checkout” capability where a single student could check the book out for 21 days, inadvertently limiting access to others in the class.

Napolis asked about meeting the needs of Department of Rehabilitation students. They are required to buy an “original” copy of the text in order for Accessibility Services to provide them with the needed accommodation.

Accessibility Services needs eight weeks early notice for any text that needs accommodation.

**Suggestions for encouraging faculty to participate in ALS, with or without financial incentive:**

- partnering with Faculty Development on a FLC (Taylor)
- offering presentations at the department level (Taylor)
- offering designated parking spots to faculty in the ALS initiative (something to be discussed with Derek Lobos) (Scobel)
- identifying disciplines or particular subjects where ALS options are easy or hard to find. Focus could be on the “easy” subjects first.

4. Other business

None.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.