



Foothill College Academic Senate

Resolution on Institutional Support for Including OER as an Action to Mitigate Equity Gaps and Increase Student Success

June 2021

Whereas, the Foothill College Academic Senate is committed to equity and supports the vision and goals in the college's ["Strategic Vision for Equity,"](#) which includes the goal that, "There are few to no incidental costs associated with being a student, including but not limited to textbooks, printing, and parking costs;"

Whereas, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has also formally acknowledged OER adoption as a measure towards achieving student equity and success (Resolution 09.05 SP19);

Whereas, the Foothill College Academic Senate recognizes that textbook costs are prohibitive for many students, that shifting textbook costs to the college is unsustainable, that open educational resources (OER) are continually improving in quality and coverage, and that reducing textbook costs aligns with our equity goals;

Whereas, it is widely recognized that adopting open educational resources (OER) may be 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 to create a text-equivalent, or the lack of ancillaries; **therefore be it**

Resolved, that the Foothill College Academic Senate recognizes that adoption of OER may require substantial work in excess of what is needed to adopt a commercial text and therefore deserves appropriate compensation such as the provision of reassigned time, stipends, and the support of classified professionals for further modification and the development of ancillary materials;

Resolved, that the Foothill College Academic Senate requests Foothill College allocate financial resources in the forms of stipends and/or reassigned time no later than Fall 2021 to adequately support faculty who are transitioning to OER for their courses;

Resolved, that the Foothill College Academic Senate collaborate with FA, the Office of Equity and Professional Development, and the Office of Instruction to explore options for providing stipends and/or reassigned time to adequately support faculty who are transitioning to OER for their courses.