



2021-22 AERC Annual Report

The Affordable Educational Resources Committee was established as a sub-committee of the Academic Senate in spring 2021, with membership and meetings starting fall 2021. This is the first year of the committee's existence.

Membership

Andi Adkins-Pogue (chair), Lyudmila Moraru (ELL), Marjorie Duffy (BCS), Heather Hutchenson (ELS), Nam Lam (SME), Linda Hoang (SME), Karl Zoller (SBS), Michael Lawlor (administrator)

Meeting Dates

AERC meets on the second Tuesday of the month during the fall and spring semesters from 3-4 pm.

- 2021 Dates: Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 2 (Note: The December meeting happened on the first Tuesday to avoid conflicts with finals week.)
- 2022 Dates: Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 5 (Note: The April meeting happened on the first Tuesday to avoid conflicts with spring break.), May 10.

Committee Goals

The committee took the following action on goals that were articulated at its September 14, 2021 meeting.

Goal One: Promoting and Advocating for the CRC OER Award Program - Ongoing

This is an ongoing goal that was achieved this year through outreach from AERC chair, Andi Adkins Pogue, and committee members who advocated for affordable educational resources to their constituents.

Goal Two: Helping faculty find and fill out the ZTC form on the college website - Ongoing

This is an ongoing goal that has seen some success with more faculty understanding that this form must be filled out every semester and include all course sections. This goal was primarily achieved through outreach (email, dept. meetings, and OER Office Hours).

Goal Three: Make textbook information in the class schedule and eServices easier for students to find and access.

This goal was accomplished. The committee worked with the district-wide textbook affordability task force and district web-development team to get the ZTC symbol on the front page of the schedule rather than hidden in the course details pop-up.

Sub Goal: Explore ways to alter textbook information provided by the bookstore and/or notes in class schedule to avoid generic “contact the instructor” messages.

This is ongoing. Andi and other district OER librarians are scheduled to meet with bookstore managers in mid-May 2022 to discuss ways to make this information more accurate.

Goal Four: creating a page on the website that explains what ZTC is to students and how they can find ZTC courses - Complete

The committee created and published a [ZTC page on the website](#) that explains what ZTC is and how to find it. Other outreach activities included:

- A homepage banner ad that ran during early registration periods
- A message from CAC success coaches to students in their first year Canvas shells
- A story in the Hawk Newsletter
- Through social media
- A presentation at the student senate
- Shared through the Reading & Writing center
- A message sent to students in the College and Life Skills Canvas course

Goal Five: Promote ZTC through college orientation - Incomplete

This goal requires communication and outreach to various departments and will likely be pushed into the next academic year.

Additional Items

In addition to the goals the committee took the following actions:

Zero means Zero Resolution

The [Zero means Zero Resolution](#) was adopted by unanimous vote at the April 22, 2022 Academic Senate meeting. The purpose of this resolution is four-fold:

1. **Help avoid confusing students:** The state's new definition of a Zero Textbook Cost degrees/certificates now allows for this designation to be applied even to courses that are "low cost," though the state has no clear definition of what "low cost" means. As a college, we hope that faculty will agree that if we're going to put ZTC on a degree/certificate pathway, we are truthful in that designation.
2. **Establish that Open Educational Resources are preferred:** OER are the most sustainable option in keeping a course ZTC.
3. **Acknowledge that OER are impossible in certain situations:** This could include courses that require copyrighted material such as a novel, popular nonfiction, or a text that is considered seminal to the discipline.
4. **Establish a need for continued fiscal support from the college, district, and state:** The last resolved acknowledges that this work is ongoing and will need continued fiscal support to create, update, remediate for accessibility, and purchase those impossible to convert to OER materials.

Other LRCCD college AER committees will consider presenting a similar resolution to their Academic Senates in the 2022/23 academic year.

Regular Updates to Academic Senate

Announcements related to the OER Award Program and formal written reports were often shared at the academic senate meetings.