Textbook Affordability Subcommittee Report
for ASGC Meeting of 11 December 2025

Subcommittee Updates

- Leonor Cabrera is moving to CSM in the Spring. There's an opening for one more faculty at-large on TAS. Come join us!
- CCCCO/OERI: Funding reports and materials updating in Cool4Ed (in December); OERI webinars ongoing.
- November meeting focus: ZTC Adopter Program, updating the offerings and coordinating across the district.
- Minutes from the last TAS meeting are at the end of this report. You can also find them on the TAS website.

ZTC Adopter Program

The Textbook Affordability Solutions Workgroup (TASW) is the collection of ZTC leads across the District. We're working together to rework our respective 'ZTC adopter-type programs' so that they are in alignment with respect to payment, time expectations to complete assignments and training. This comes as the District has informed us that we can no longer offer awards for work, due to CalPERS and CalSTRS restrictions. As a result, we're working on the following pieces:

- The program, as always, is open to all faculty, regardless of discipline or status.
- Training would likely be done districtwide, much like QOTL training is done. TASW is still working on exact training models, but most likely would include a micro-course to learn the very basics of OER, then lead to trainings based on the ASCCC OERI trainings (OER Basics, Accessibility Basics).
- The types of projects will be mildly revamped to better address needs and work to be done. One best-practice model that the ASCCC OERI has been showcasing is the one that MiraCosta has set up. TASW would probably not support simple course adoption or easy textbook swap, as our District doesn't support that work for publisher materials currently.
  - Skyline did a mock-up of hourly breakdowns for projects, but it still needs tweaking in terms of the hour caps for each type of project. But it's close to what is ideal.
  - Please see the November TAS minutes for updated discussion.

TAS will be coming back to this topic in January a bit, as there will be updates. Come join us!

Fall 2025 District-wide Affordable Instructional Materials Student Survey

We got over 500 student survey responses...thank you! More from this survey will come out in February.

CCCCO ZTC Grant Updates

- Cañada's reports on how we have spent all of our ZTC allocations is due 31 December 2025. We'll include those figures in the February 2026 report, which will be the next report after the due date.

Spring Trainings and Events

Cañada is now a LibreNet member! That means that we can now officially host an unlimited number of OER remixes on LibreTexts, plus we have access to a number of trainings and workshops that are customizable to our needs. We're planning on offering specific workshops on a number of LibreTexts products, including a remixer workshop, how to use the ADAPT homework platform overall, and specific workshops on the Discuss-It and the new Forge writing platform. Look for these workshops in February onwards!

Reminder about Textbook Adoptions and SB 893

- ***Make sure to get your Spring Textbook Adoptions into Jai (and Sarah for ZTC/LTC) as soon as possible!*** Technically, they're due on 10 October (or there abouts), but we need them as soon as possible to update WebSchedule and the Bookstore's records.
- SB 893, the legislation that allows the District to fund the Free College Initiative, has specific restrictions with respect to how students in the program can purchase their course materials.
  - SB 893 textbook funds are ***only*** available for materials that can be purchased through the college bookstore.
  - SB 893 covers textbook costs for students who show financial need and/or who are eligible for the non-resident tuition waiver.
- The more courses and sections that are converted to ZTC or LTC, the further these dollars can go!
  - If you're using ZTC materials—especially those that are open-source—you can make a print option copy available. That way, your students can use their financial aid funds to purchase that print copy. Ask Jai for more info!

Meetings

Our next meeting will be 27 January, 1-2pm via Zoom. We'll focus on the Controlled Digital Lending and how it can help more courses become ZTC. We'll also start our planning for Open Education Week, which will be 2-7 March 2026. Come join us!

ASCCC OERI News and Events

Discipline Lead Opportunities for Spring 2026

The ASCCC OERI is still recruiting new **Discipline Leads** for Spring 2026. Faculty from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Discipline Leads receive a **$600 stipend per term**, with additional stipends available for completing OERI courses.

Disciplines currently sought include (but are not limited to): Addiction Studies, Agriculture, Computer Science, Counseling, Data Science, Health, History, Nursing, Social Justice Studies, Welding Technology, and more.

New OER & Music Discipline Collection Available

The OERI announced a newly compiled **Open Educational Resources and Music collection**, created by the Music Discipline Lead. This curated list helps faculty identify OER alternatives to commercial music textbooks. Faculty may submit suggestions for additional materials directly to OERI.

December Webinars & Office Hours

AI, Ethics, and OER (Mon, Dec 1, 1:30–2:30 pm)
A webinar examining ethical and questionable uses of Artificial Intelligence in developing, adapting, and sharing OER. Topics include practical use cases, ethical challenges, and decision-making frameworks.
Register for Ethical and Questionable Use of AI and OER

IDEA (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism) & OER Office Hour (Wed, Dec 3, 12:00–1:00 pm)

Drop-in space for discussing how to apply the IDEA framework to evaluating or creating OER.

Register for IDEA and OER Office Hour

OER & Artificial Intelligence Office Hour (Thu, Dec 4, 12:00–1:00 pm)
An open session for questions about attribution, ethics, discipline-specific scenarios, and the role of AI in OER.

[Register for the OER and AI Office Hour](#)

December Friday Forum

Fri, Dec 5, 10:30–11:30 am: Making ZTC Data Available With Data Dashboards
Learn how colleges can use a new dashboard template (developed in partnership with OERI, Michelson Foundation, and Chabot College) to make Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) section data accessible. Discussion includes data requirements for Tableau/Power BI and how institutions can customize templates.

[Register for Making ZTC Data Available With Data Dashboards](#)

Discipline-Specific OER Events

Ethnic Studies OER: Engagement & Leadership*: Wed, Dec 3, 11:00 am–12:00 pm*
 Explores opportunities in Ethnic Studies OER development, openings for discipline leads, and strategies for adopting/adapting OER.

[Register for Engagement and Leadership in Ethnic Studies OER](#)

Math OER Office Hours (Mon, Dec 8, 3:00–4:00 pm)
Q&A session for anyone working with math OER or MyOpenMath.

[Register for Math OER Office Hours on Monday, December 8, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm](#)

Physics OER Office Hours*: Fri, Dec 5 and Tue, Dec 9 (various times)*
 Support for faculty using or developing physics OER, including guidance related to MyOpenMath.

[Register for Physics OER Office Hours on December 5 and 9](#)

Textbook Affordability Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
for 25 November 2025, 1-2pm, via [Zoom](#)

Attendance

- Present: Amira Alkeswani, Leonor Cabrera, Sarah Harmon, Nada Nekrep, Marina Noel, Anniqua Rana
- Absent: Chialin Hsieh, Jai Kumar, Carlos Luna
- Guests: John Pérez

Agenda

I. Introductions and Welcome (5 minutes; Information)
   a. Leonor is moving to CSM in the Spring; looking to replace her in the Spring.
II. Updates (10 minutes; Information/Discussion)
   a. CCCCO ZTC Grant Updates and Updates from CCCCO
      i. ZTC grant reporting in December 2025; we're on track on all of our pathways and projects.
      ii. LibreTexts has been awarded the RFP to be the main OER repository for CCCCO ZTC grants. There will be more information to come, but this will be a well-supported way for faculty to share their OER materials.
   b. Updates from the OERI
      i. Spring webinars will be announced soon, but will include topics on OER and AI.
      ii. In Spring, the OERI will host 4 regional in-person workshops for LibreTexts/ADAPT. (Cañada will also host our own, since we're now part of the LibreNet subscription. More info soon!)
III. [Spring 2025 ZTC/LTC Student Survey](#) Updates (15 minutes; Information)
   a. Sarah has met with ASCC, EAPC and PDPC to talk about the results. Overall, much of what TAS notice has also been observed by these groups. The students, in particular, commented on the need for more marketing of ZTC/LTC courses and supports.
   b. Sarah will be meeting with the Learning Center and the Instructional Deans soon to share information, talk about programming ZTC/LTC in courses and tutoring services.
   c. Following up with faculty department coordinators ahead of scheduling.
   d. Sarah created a [ZTC/LTC Syllabus Blurb App](#) on Playlab that helps faculty create the appropriate syllabus blurb in student-friendly language. This was emailed out to Spring 2026 ZTC/LTC faculty, and it's also on the [ZTC for Faculty page](#), the [Syllabus Guide](#) and [Sample Statements](#).
   e. PDPC noted the need to have more training for faculty, both on what ZTC/LTC is and how to guide their students on how to use the materials. That's a project for the spring.
IV. District-wide revamp of ZTC Incentive Project Awards (30 minutes; Information/Discussion)
   a. From the District Office and our VPAS: we need to move away from awards/stipends and towards hourly-rate payments. This is because CalPERS doesn't allow for stipends/awards for work being done, and CalSTRS tends to align with what CalPERS is doing.
   b. Skyline and CSM are looking to restart their programs; [Cañada](#) will do summer-only.
   c. Textbook Affordability Solutions Workgroup (TASW) looked at the [MiraCosta ZTC Guidelines](#), but with modifications.
      i. Skyline did a [mock-up](#) of hourly breakdowns for projects, but it still needs tweaking in terms of the hour caps for each type of project.
         • There was concern by AFT that these projects wouldn't be open to all, or that the quality of the projects would be compromised. TASW has made it clear that projects are available for all faculty, regardless of role or position. Quality would not be compromised and will be of primary importance.
         • We wouldn't support just a straight adoption with no modifications nor Canvas shell, since our current AFT contract doesn't compensate faculty for textbook changes. TASW recognizes that it does take time to do that work, whether using a publisher material or OER/ZTC materials, and we hope that we can revisit this in the future.
         • The different levels of projects would be indicated initially in the faculty application; they would indicate what they wanted to do for the project and indicate their projection

of time that's needed. The final decision on the level of project being done would be in discussion with the Program Manager and others involved in the project.

- Project requirements and hour-maximums would be finalized in the agreement at the start of the project.
- Budgeting for these projects will be crucial; the hours will be paid at the special rate. Cushions will be built in to allow for changes in rate and retroactive payments.
- If faculty need an extension beyond the term that they're working in but still have hours left in their project, they can continue working on the project until they have exhausted their maximum hours. This would be decided on a case-by-case basis.
- Just as before, if faculty start a project before the agreement in place, none of the work completed before the agreement is settled can be compensated.

   d. Move training to QOTL/Micro-courses for initial training, with required training for projects

      i. OER Basics and Accessibility Basics (or SMCCCD-tweaked of them) will be the backbone of the trainings, capped at 10 hours. That's based off of Ame Maloney and Sarah Harmon having taken them, plus numerous Skyline and Cañada faculty who have taken them.

      ii. The @One training would be capped at 20 hours, which is what it says it will take folks to complete.

      iii. Any micro-courses would be capped at 2 hours. SMCCCD has a Copyright Micro-course

   e. IDEA Framework being involved in the projects

   f. Question: If there is a course being developed that the faculty would like to make ZTC, will there be support to ensure that students will still be able to take the course?

      i. Answer: Yes! Sarah and Anniqua will help as they can.

V. Adjourn

Important links

- Textbook Affordability Subcommittee website
- Textbook Affordability Subcommittee SharePoint site
- OER/ZTC LibGuide
- SMCCCD OER/ZTC Website
- ASCCC OERI Website

Next meeting: 27 January 2026, 1-2pm, via Zoom

Focus: Controlled Digital Lending and initial planning for Open Education Week