

OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES AND ZERO TEXTBOOK COST COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE:

5/21/2025

TIME:

1-2:00 pm

LOCATION:

70-173 or Zoom

AGENDA AND MINUTES

1. Update on grant awards and application submissions to the state
 - a. Zayden provided an update on the grant awards after final discussions and approvals from the committee were made over email before this meeting. Grant funds were awarded to the American Sign Language, Business Office technology, and Computer Science departments for their pathways. Upon review, the War on Drugs certificate was not eligible to apply for this grant because it was not a CTE certificate. Two courses that were part of the certificate, however, were able to be backfilled: PHIL 200 The Philosophy of the War on Drugs and HIST 138 History of Mexico. These back fills are allowed because these pathways are existing grant awardees from previous ZTC grants from the State Chancellor's Office. The finalized budgets and submissions were officially turned in in NOVA by Zayden who has been in communication with the Grossmont budget office and State Chancellor's Office.
2. FLEX week session
 - a. Adelle proposed to the committee working on a FLEX week presentation before the start of the Fall semester. Zayden and Nadra agreed to join in on a session to talk about OER and Accessibility.
3. LTC - Low Textbook Cost, clarifying and agreeing on terms
 - a. The committee reviewed and discussed Low Textbook Cost (LTC) definitions and designations. Nadra provided background information about the survey and data analysis that was performed to support the \$40 threshold for LTC at Grossmont. After discussion, the committee agreed that the below cases would qualify a course as LTC:
 - i. If only a digital only version of the textbook is available, but it is under \$40
 - ii. If a print and digital textbook have two different prices, but one is under \$40

Some cases will require further discussion. For example, many professors have made efforts with textbook publishers to bring the price of their textbooks below the \$40 threshold, however, according to our definition posted on [our LTC information page](#) this would not qualify as LTC since the books must be purchased directly from the publisher and are not available at the bookstore. Committee members noted that in the past, students

have been reimbursed for purchases made directly from the publisher, but we need further details about how this works. Ultimately, the committee wants to reward faculty efforts that lower costs to students.

4. Textbook use over multiple courses
 - a. The topic of textbook use over multiple classes was brought up for discussion as an issue that Zayden was informed about last semester. Some classes and programs use traditional textbooks that students purchase over a specified sequence of courses. Faculty have inquired about having courses in the later part of a sequence to be marked ZTC, reasoning that students did not need to purchase a new textbook for that course since they had previously purchased the text. The course was not marked ZTC because the intent of the ZTC markings is to indicate no associated textbook costs with the course, which is not true in this case. The OERI (Open Education Resource Initiative, a project of the ASCCC) agrees that these types of courses should not be marked ZTC. The committee discussed and agreed that courses like this should not be marked ZTC.
5. Enrollment strategies committee update
 - a. Tate Hurvitz provided an update from the Enrollment Strategies Committee. Next year, Grossmont College will be a college where students can enroll as part of the California Virtual Campus. On the CVC, courses that are ZTC and POER badged generally have higher rates of enrollment. The Enrollment Strategies Committee has a goal to increase ZTC offerings for online classes.

CHARGE

The Open Education Resources and Zero Textbook Cost Committee (OERZTCC) reports to the Academic Senate. The OERZTCC provides a forum for OER and ZTC awareness, adoption, and support for faculty and students. The committee provides recommendations, guidelines, and standards (including accessibility) for the integration and sustainability of OER, ZTC, and low textbook cost (LTC) materials. The committee ensures that ZTC/LTC is clearly indicated in the class schedule for students. Ultimately, the OERZTCC works to eliminate barriers to education, increase equity, and improve student outcomes.

MEMBERSHIP

Zayden Tethong, OER ZTC Committee co-chair

Nadra Farina-Hess, OER ZTC Committee co-chair

Hadeel Yaqoub, ESBS (English, Social, and Behavioral Sciences)

Irene Palacios, MS (Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Exercise Science and Wellness)

Ondrea Mesquita, IOPS

Geradette Nutt, CalWorks

Tate Hurvitz, GCCCD Administrators Association

Adelle Roe, OTLC Committee liaison

Lara Braff, ASCCC OERI Representative

Student representative, Amir Jasim

NEXT MEETING

August 20, 2025, 1-2pm