



## OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

**August 3, 2017, 1:00 - 3:00pm**

Colorado Department of Higher Education  
1560 Broadway – Suite 1600, Denver, CO 80202

### MEETING NOTES

1. Welcome and attendance

In attendance: Alex Leontyev; Brittany Dudek; Courtney Bruch; Deborah Keyen-Franssen; Emily Ragan; Eugene Hainer; Helen Reed; Jonathan Poritz; Karen Danielson; Meg Brown-Sica; Renee Martinez; Tina Parscal; Spencer Ellis; Tim Flanagan; Janet Correl; Amanda Bickel; on the phone Ellen Metter. Also joining: Tanya Spilovoy, Terri Taylor Straut from WCET. Community attendees: Larry Hudson, Carter Gruba, Troy Fossett.

**Overarching objective:**

We need to walk away with a clear and detailed understanding of what needs to be done in the next 3 months.

2. Public comments

No comments.

3. Updates from RFP review subcommittee

- We finalized the RFP, reviewed submissions from two vendors, made a final recommendation, and made a selection to go with WCET.
- Tim verbally reviewed what will be the “guts” of the report and proposal will be. See the RFP for details.

4. Introduction of WCET: Tanya Spilvov, Director of Open Policy & Terri Taylor Straut, Senior Research Analyst

- WCET member proposal/questions or concerns:
  - Challenges of a very aggressive timeline
    - On a similar project in North Dakota, it took a few months to only do the survey development and analysis.
  - Challenges of the time of year
    - End of summer, going in to the fall semester may hinder survey participation.
  - We need to put together two subcommittees
    - One to create the surveys
    - One to edit the final report
  - Survey development
    - 1) Institutional—This will be one survey filled out per-institution. There may need be sub-components that need to be answered by others from that institution but there will be one survey completed and submitted per-institution.



- This will be a very specific survey, asking questions like:
      - Are you using OER? If so, in what capacity and in what programs? If not, what are your plans to use OER?
  - 2) Individual (to be broadly advertised to the public and targeted stakeholders as listed in the RFP (see the RFP for details).
    - This survey will be much more broadly designed and include questions related to:
      - Demographic information (this will help to identify the participants by role: students, faculty, IT, etc), as well as information on interest in OERs, and advise for the OER committee.
    - Can we make this survey a tree survey that asks questions based on demographic?
- Survey dissemination
  - We need to get the highest response rate possible.
  - We should deploy the institutional survey from CDHE with an introduction from someone with a leadership role.
  - Each member of this council we will be the point of contact for our institution.
  - The Provost or Assistant Provost will be the point of contact for those institutions who aren't represented on the council.
  - What's the best way to reach stakeholders for the individual survey?
    - Spencer will be the collator of lists so any contact information we have with any of the individual survey stakeholders can be sent to Spencer.
    - Any OER Council member with personal contacts should disseminate the survey to those individuals/teams. Alternatively, any contact lists we have should be shared with either WCET or Spencer.
    - Publishers/booksellers: Larry can find out the right persons to contact from his publishing team.
    - Bookstores: Maybe we reach out to the bookstore council?
    - Non-higher Ed schools: There are various distribution lists that can be provided.
    - Students: Student government lists
    - Libraries: library representatives strategize who and how will they be contacted. Gene and Brittany will be points of contact for this group.
    - Campus IT departments: Colorado Higher Ed Computing Organization
    - Faculty as well as CFAC (the Colorado faculty advisory council)
    - Public service announcements for the broad categories or PR people to the press.
      - Keep in mind that Provosts can also ask any of these above stakeholders to participate in the Individual survey.
  - The report will include a brief description of who was contacted, we don't need to worry about quantify this because we do not need a viable sample size for this report.
- WCET is managing the data collection work and will also be conducting a literature review to make recommendations. They will be looking at:
  - What is the current state of OER use in CO?
  - How can it be expanded?

- What resources are necessary to expand use of OER?
  - What's the connection between the data collected from the survey and the recommendations?
  - One does not necessarily inform the other.
- Any council member with resources to aide in the literature review will send those to WCET.

## 5. Questions?

- Is there an opportunity for a system-level response?
  - Maybe this is something that we can add to the report itself?
- Would it be helpful for a one-page case summary for each institution?
  - It was discussed that this might be an ideal but there was concern that there wasn't time to add something like this for each institution. Other, similar, suggestions included:
  - Doing something like this in a later report.
  - Collect data like this and disseminate it a tabular/column way to demonstrate level of engagement at this point.
    - That leads to questions regarding what the markers are that would fill the cells in this table?
    - It was noted that there are "maturity scales" for adoption of technology that we can use and that we could also present this data anonymously so not to "embarrass" any institution.
- It was expressed that we need to acknowledge that we are missing a good survey of the instructors that do/implement OER—although the individual survey (detailed above) will provide faculty the opportunity to share their voices.
  - Perhaps when the proposal is brought to legislature we can invite faculty/students to attend?
  - We have national data on faculty use of OER. Is there any reason to think that Colorado would be different from that national data?
    - Not necessarily (although funding in higher education in Colorado is different than national trend), but we acknowledge the importance of gathering faculty input and buy-in.
  - Faculty spotlights/sidebars of exemplary practices will help build a compelling narrative and energize the report.
    - Consider providing institutional highlights and quotes from students and faculty.
  - We should also highlight when there is innovation being lead at the various system levels.
  - We will need a summary on the CCCS system and the University of Colorado system
- Is it reasonable to think that there is OER in every institution?
  - No, it is not uniform or canonized.
    - But, we may have some samples of any OER policies. The policy isn't "you should adopt" but if the state funds any OER work to be done, that work needs to be openly done and freely shared.
- It was expressed that OER is a high priority for student government because students can't request lower tuition; but, this is a way to help lower the cost of college.
  - Any student government surveys that have been completed should be sent to WCET to be integrated in to the report.

## 6. Review timeline for OER Council's Work

- We reviewed of the project description written by WCET.

- Will we need IRB approval?
  - Tim will look in to this, but it is not likely.
- Regarding the individual survey, what is the plan to deal with no response?
  - WCET noted that the plan is that we can't force anyone to respond to the survey. Our job is to offer it and if they respond, we count them. We realize that this isn't going to be the most reliable research but we will do the very best we can. Since we aren't basing any policy on this data, a specific sample size is not needed. Mostly, the individual survey will satisfy our curiosity.
- The honesty of the report is great and the structure is clean.

#### 7. Additional comments

- There was a discussion on Z-degrees to reduce the cost through OER.
  - This means that there are zero textbook costs throughout the entire degree; however, this is very difficult. We may want to set a goal of offering one or two Z-degrees.
  - Z-degrees are strongest for the first two years and high enrollment courses like math.
- Has anyone mandated OER?
  - We will recommend NOT mandating OER.
- It was expressed that these surveys can serve as a tool to help institutions design "next steps" for OER use. For instance, these surveys could show us who are advocates and who to contact for our institutional level initiatives.

#### 8. Sub-committees:

- Survey Development Sub-committee.
  - Alex, John, Karen, Meg, and Tina; Tanya will facilitate
  - Surveys will be sent out as a draft via google docs for the council to edit.
- Final product Peer Review Sub-Committee
  - Deborah, Brittany, Helen, Courtney and Jonathan; Tanya will facilitate
- Spencer will send out doodles to determine the meeting days and times of these sub-committees.

#### 9. Next meeting: September 22, 2017