Meeting Preparation Notes from Academic Senate President Josh Scott:

Colleagues,

In addition to the agenda which will be coming this Friday, I wanted to provide a little context for some of our discussion items on September 12th.

First, Neil Glines (Dean of Liberal Arts), John Perez (DE Coordinator), and I will hold a discussion in partnership with our Distance Ed Committee related to online instruction and how we want to engage it as a college going forward. As part of this, we'll be working to come up with campus-wide definitions for synchronous, asynchronous, hybrid, and hyflex classes.

In preparation, we encourage you to check out this op-ed published by the ASCCC last year: "What Is Hyflex, And Why Do I Keep Hearing About It?"   Also, please take some time to talk with colleagues in your departments, talk with your students, and think about what resources and professional development would benefit teaching and learning in each modality. Also what questions do you, your colleagues, or your students have? Do you have concerns about any of these modalities?

Here's the goal for this portion of the meeting, in the words of Dean Glines: "if we can gauge interest and identify issues and impacted parties upfront, we might be able to roll out something (should we decide the need is there) that makes sense for all involved. Most important we can ensure the experience for students is uniform across the college rather than situational from department to department."

Secondly, Atticus Frey (OER Liaison) and David Williams will be leading a conversation regarding Zero Cost Textbooks, Low Cost Textbooks, and related funding opportunities. In preparation for Monday's meeting, please read the below message from Atticus for more info on this, and then discuss this with your colleagues and students.

I look forward to both conversations.

Josh

The Chancellor's office has distributed $20K to each community college campus to spend on initiatives that lower course costs for students. The funding itself was named as the state's ZTC initiative, so there is an implied expectation that the funds provided should be used for that purpose. At the end of this fiscal year, the Chancellor's office will open an application for further funding for campuses to expand their ZTC offerings with a provided $200k grants.

We should discuss designations for Low Textbook Cost courses, AND we should also discuss how we would like to move forward with spending the allotted $20k grant.

Many campuses that have their eye on *next year's* $200k grants are focusing their efforts on coordinating a ZTC plan for their campuses and are moving aggressively towards adopting OER in courses. Common ways other campuses are using funds for include:

- Faculty stipends for adopting OER resources
- Hiring or designating release time for an OER coordinator
- Professional development workshops for finding, creating, and/or adopting OER resources

Essentially, we can have a more centralized approach to spending these ZTC funds through a coordinator that directs traffic, or a more decentralized approach of offering stipends through curriculum or PD initiatives. Both options have benefits and drawbacks that we can discuss at senate.

Atticus