California and OER: Is the Giant Bear Sleeping?

James Wiser,
Community College League of California
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California now world’s fifth-largest economy, bigger than Britain

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The Golden State is getting even richer.

California is now the world’s fifth-largest economy, according to data released Friday morning by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Its 2017 Gross State Product was $2.747 trillion, surpassing the United Kingdom’s $2.625 trillion Gross Domestic Product.
California Master Plan for Higher Education

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The California Master Plan for Higher Education of 1960 was developed by a survey team appointed by the UC Regents and the State Board of Education during the administration of Governor Pat Brown. Clark Kerr, then the President of UC, was a key figure in its development. The Plan set up a coherent system for postsecondary education which defined specific roles for the already-existing University of California (UC), the California State College (CSC) system of senior colleges, now California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges system (CCC).

The Master Plan also proposed a statutory framework for its implementation, which was signed into law by Governor Brown on April 27, 1960. The statute actually implementing the Master Plan is formally titled the Donahoe Higher Education Act[1] (now located at Part 40 of Division 3 of Title 3 of the California Education Code), to honor the memory of Assemblywoman Dorothy Donahoe of Bakersfield. Donahoe had authored the legislative resolution which eventually resulted in the study that created the Master Plan, and was one of its foremost advocates. However, she died on April 4, 1960, and did not live to see the Plan’s recommendations signed into law.

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History

Prior to the Master Plan’s development in the 1960s, California struggled to reform its social institutions. Under political stranglehold, due to the 1920s-era railroad monopoly, new, self-proclaimed reformers attempted to overthrow the economic and political corruption existing in the state at the time. They wanted to create new institutions with a public morality to give California a new form of purpose.[2] However, in the early years of California’s emergence the population remained largely mobile, moving from opportunity to opportunity, making it almost impossible for the state to create permanent public schools. Furthermore, California Progressives encountered obstacles in the form of people who thought that education should
Public Higher Education in California

California Community Colleges
- 72 districts
- 114 colleges
- 1.1 million FTE students
- 67,000 FTE faculty and staff
- $8.7 billion Proposition 98 funding

California State University
- 23 campuses
- 379,000 FTE students
- 43,000 FTE faculty and staff
- $3.8 billion state funding

University of California
- 10 campuses
- 5 medical centers
- 3 national labs
- 221,000 FTE students
- 155,000 FTE faculty and staff
- $3.5 billion state funding
As a result, the three systems largely operate in their own silos, with little agreement on priorities or ability to respond collectively to issues such as the college readiness of high-school graduates, labor-market volatility, and budgetary downturns.

"For public-policy purposes, the systems might as well be in different states," says Patrick Callan, who served as president of the former National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. When they do work together, he says, it is often "opportunistic" and done to further individual goals. "Collaboration just isn’t in their DNA."

For them to come together, then, to rethink California’s plan for higher education would be a particularly heavy lift. Nor do the sectors have much incentive to change, Callan and others say. While the three systems struggle with statewide priorities, the current governance structure gives them relative freedom to set and pursue their own institutional goals. It codified their turf.

"Someone with four aces," says Penn’s Finney, "doesn’t call for a new deal."
OER and California – A Road Trip
California State University
(23 campuses)
California State University

Merlot (1997+)
Or?
California State University

- SB 1052/53 (2012)
  - $5,000,000 (one-time) with additional external funding from Gates and Hewlett Foundations
  - OER Council (2013-2015)
  - 50 courses targeted across the three systems
  - Legislation specifically identified leveraging MERLOT
  - Cool4Ed

- AB 798 (2015)
  - Reallocated $3M of the remaining $4M from SB 1052/53 (one-time)
  - Individual College Grants ($50k per campus)
California Open Educational Resources Council

Since the signing of the College Textbook Affordability Act AB 798 (Bonilla, 2015), the California OER Council has shifted its focus to support CCC and CSU proposals for AB 798 funding. See Duties and FAQ for more information.

(established January 2014)

In 2012, the California State Legislature directed the public higher education systems in the state to create an online library with open educational resources and textbooks in order to increase faculty adoption of high quality, affordable or free materials to save students money. Through collaboration among UC, CSU and CCC faculty, the California Open Educational Resources Council (California OER Council) will facilitate review of textbooks for inclusion in the new California Open Source Digital Library (COOL4Ed).

The project began with the development of a showcase collection of existing high quality and reliably available open textbooks that are aligned with strategic courses in the CCC, CSU, and UC. Providing faculty with easy access to open textbooks, and information about teaching with these materials by their colleagues, as well as providing
The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) from the community colleges, CSUs, and UCs has played a key role in defining and coordinating the implementation of the project.

“With the grant funding expended and the accomplishments reported, ICAS agreed to terminate the California OER Council in June 2016.”
California State University

- SB 1052/53 (2012)
  - $5,000,000 (one-time) with additional external funding from Gates and Hewlett Foundations
  - OER Council (2013-2015)
  - 50 courses targeted across the three systems
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  - Created Cool4Ed

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  - Reallocated $3M of the remaining $4M from SB 1052/53 (one-time)
  - Individual College Grants ($50k per campus)
University of California System
(10 Campuses + 5 Medical Centers + 3 National Labs)
University of California System

• The UC system has made the least (visible) amount of traction on OER of the three “systems”
• Perceived threats to academic freedom are the biggest contributor
• UC librarians do not have faculty status
• As a system, more invested in Open Access (OA) conversations
• All (?) efforts are at the campus level
Open Educational Resources
At its April meeting, UCACC member Chikako Takeshita (UCR), who is one of three UC faculty participants on the California Open Educational Resources Council, gave an update on the issue of textbook affordability, which had been discussed in previous years by UCACC’s precursor committee. The OER Council was formed after the passage of two textbook affordability bills, in 2012, and tasked with facilitating the review of textbooks for inclusion in the new California Open Source Digital Library. The California State Legislature directed the public higher education systems in the state to create an online library with open educational resources and textbooks in order to increase faculty adoption of high quality, affordable or free materials to save students money. Takeshita presented slides on the work and accomplishments of the California Open Educational Resources Council in identifying courses, evaluating e-textbooks, and promoting the adoption of free and open textbooks in California higher education. The California State University uses an open access repository called MERLOT for course resources, and has developed the “cool4ed” website as the public face of the California Open Online Library for Education for all higher education sectors. Faculty can use the website to find free and open textbooks. Many of these are developed by OpenStax and include texts for foundational courses. Since the signing of the College Textbook Affordability Act (AB 798), the California OER Council has shifted its focus to support CCC and CSU proposals for funding.
California Community Colleges
(114 campuses)
California Community Colleges

• Tuition has been held flat at $46 per credit hour for 8 years, making the share of the pie students spend on instructional materials vastly disproportionate – California’s community colleges charge the lowest tuition in the country among public institutions
• Strong encouragement to tap into CSU resources from a high level
• Strong resistance from a lower level to tap into CSU resources
• Libraries are sometimes involved, and sometimes not at all involved – anecdotally it seems late arrivers have librarians as drivers
• OER efforts are highly distributed and happening at the ground level, perhaps reflecting the CCC governance structure
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. (a) For the 2017–18 fiscal year, the sum of six million dollars ($6,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges for allocation to a community college district or districts to support the development and expansion of open educational resources for the California Community Colleges. Funds appropriated pursuant to this subdivision shall be available for encumbrance until June 30, 2023.

(b) In constructing the program established by this section, the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges shall consult with the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges.

(c) For purposes of making the computations required by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution, the appropriation made by subdivision (a) shall be deemed to be “General Fund revenues appropriated for community college districts,” as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 41202 of the Education Code, for the 2017–18 fiscal year, and included within the “total allocations to school districts and community college districts from General Fund proceeds of taxes appropriated pursuant to Article XIII B,” as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 41202 of the Education Code, for the 2017–18 fiscal year.
OER Challenges from California
(Unoriginal thoughts)

We still haven’t determined whether our ultimate goal is to reduce textbook costs or be OER purists
OER Challenges from California (Unoriginal thoughts)

Fundamentally, success is reached by one-on-one conversions of faculty, not grand strategic documents or press releases.
OER Challenges from California (Unoriginal thoughts)

We need to take more seriously the reasons faculty are not adopting OER.
OER Challenges from California (Unoriginal thoughts)

How do you move forward if/when the people tasked with leading OER at your institution or system aren’t doing it well?
OER Challenges from California
(Unoriginal thoughts)

We should probably create a sustainable business model.
Is one-time funding hacking it?
OER Challenges from California
(Unoriginal thoughts)

Should we be targeting new faculty first?
OER Challenges from California
(Unoriginal thoughts)

Should we be spending money on textbook authorship instead of conversion?
OER Challenges
(Unoriginal thoughts)

Do Everything at Once

![Diagram showing time cost comparison between Strategy A and Strategy B. The diagram suggests that analyzing whether Strategy A or B is more efficient is inefficient.]

The reason I am so inefficient.
Jerry Brown’s Legacy: A $6.1 Billion Budget Surplus in California

The governor hopes to avoid the fate of predecessors who left office with big deficits.

California greenhouse gas emissions in 2016 fell below 1990 levels, hitting a self-imposed target for reductions four years ahead of schedule, officials said. Gov. Jerry Brown and other officials said the milestone proved that the state can fight climate change while still enjoying an economic boom.

To Keep Women From Dying In Childbirth, Look To California

July 29, 2018 · 8:02 AM ET
Heard on Weekend Edition Sunday

California often does succeed. Eventually.
Questions?
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