

Dear CCM Task Force,

Congratulations on your work over the last year and the report you just released and thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to present to you. The recent report that you wrote is truly comprehensive and provides a lot of information that will help Illinois make good decisions about how it supports students in getting easy access to affordable and high-quality course materials.

I did notice a mention of the report that I authored for MHEC and wanted to ensure I clarified the purpose of a matrix that you referenced a number of times in the footnote. I think it's important to note that both the footnote in the MHEC report and my presentation both acknowledged that the matrix was generalized and based on the most common understanding and that the table might look different for different contexts. This table was developed by the stakeholder group which debated and came to a consensus on where each alternative typically fell. Different stakeholder groups may come up with different outcomes. This matrix is meant to be a tool to guide discussion and create transparency. We encourage you to use it as such and feel free to put forth your own version. However, the MHEC report and slide show are accurate in that the expert working group for this paper used criteria to assess where different alternatives fell and landed on the matrix that was published.

I also want to elevate two of the principals in the MHEC report. Principal 3: Costs should account for implementation costs unique to OER and Principal 4: Adopting/adapting existing OER can reduce costs that the conversation. The discussion on page 82-83 could benefit from some additional context that could account for the costs of course development that were unique to OER, as opposed to implementing a standard learning resource. Additionally, the discussion doesn't acknowledge the broad availability of existing resources that individuals have to draw from or the fact that OER development costs are one-time costs. These are important factors the discuss when discussing costs which is why we included them as principals in our report.

I write you with these insights not as a representative of MHEC, but as the author of the report. I want to make sure that the work is accurately reflected. I hope you will consider editing your footnote and consider the impact that applying the principles listed above might have on your final report.

Sincerely,

Katie

Katie Zaback
zabacksolutions.com