Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **What is AB 798?**
   Assembly Bill 798 is a bill written and funded by the California State Legislature to reduce the overall cost of education and will support work to replace or reduce use of expensive college textbooks through OERs. It establishes the following:
   - The Open Educational Resources Adoption Incentive Program (OERAIP) is created to provide incentives and reward campus, staff, and faculty efforts to accelerate the adoption of open educational resources in the CSU system and the CA community college system.
   - Specified moneys for the OERAIP will be used by campuses to create and support faculty and staff professional development, Open Educational Resource curation activities, curriculum modification, or technology support for faculty, staff, and students.

   The bill can be read in its entirety at [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB798](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB798)

   Cal Poly’s Academic Senate resolved to support AB 798 in the spring of 2016.

2. **What are Open Educational Resources (OERs)?**
   OER stands for Open Educational Resources. These are free, high-quality educational resources that supplement or replace traditional textbooks.

3. **What are some examples of OERs?**
   Examples include but are not limited to full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, faculty-created content, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge.

4. **Does this mean I would get support or release time to write my own original textbook and materials?**
   Not quite. AB 798 emphasized curating more than creating materials. The purpose is to create frameworks, support materials, and useability and/or to adapt already extent materials for classroom use. Faculty participating in AB 798 will receive different kinds of support depending on their individual project and needs. Awards will tend to be paid in addition to the faculty member’s usual/current workload.

5. **Who can apply for AB 798 funds? Who may not apply?**
   Any and all teaching faculty may apply. However, faculty already using OERs would need to be able to establish cost savings to students. (If student costs are already $0.00, it would be difficult to establish further savings.)

6. **Are group projects permitted?**
   Yes! AB 798 aims to reduce textbook costs for as many students as possible, and more instructors = more student savings.

7. **What kinds of projects are currently in development at Cal Poly?**
Currently, there are three projects that will be launched during the 2017-2018 academic year: an OER math textbook for Math 206 (Linear Algebra 1); an OER textbook for English 149 (Technical Writing for Engineers); and an online anthology for American Literature (multiple classes and sections, from 200-level to graduate level). All of these projects will be published by the Chancellor’s office OER site and available to the public.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, current AB 798 grant participants will present on their projects and experiences. Sign up for updates, either at the New Faculty Orientation, or with Amy Wiley, Textbook Affordability Campus Coordinator, at awiley@calpoly.edu

8. What factors influence acceptance of a proposal?
A key metric used in assessing project strength used by the CSU Chancellor’s Office is the number of sections affected and overall student savings, calculated by the difference between the current/former textbook used and the cost of the new, proposed OERs. AB 798 aims for a minimum of 30% savings and 50 sections per campus. Proposals will be evaluated at the campus level before being submitted to the Chancellor’s Office, where the California Open Educational Resources Council reviews and approves the plan.

Projects may be as simple as reformatting out-of-copyright or out-of-print materials for classroom use to constructing support materials to constructing an entirely new textbook out of publicly available materials.

9. How much will the award be?
The campus grant is for $50,000, which will be disbursed among accepted proposal according to assessment of need for financial support, feasibility of the project, and its broad usefulness.

10. When should I apply?
Applications for the next round of funding will be submitted in spring 2018.

11. Who administers the AB 798 applications, projects, and awards?
AB 798 projects and communication are managed by Amy Wiley, Textbook Affordability Campus Coordinator for the Cal Poly Campus. AB 798 projects at Cal Poly are administered through the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (CTLT), the Office of Academic Programs and Planning, and are overseen system-wide by the CSU Chancellor’s Office. Funding is provided by the California State Legislature.