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49-R-21

A Resolution to Advocate for Affordable Textbook Solutions

Kimmy Sullivan (for herself, Samer Abusway, Zach Kauffman, and Maria Vargo) introduced the following resolution to the Steering Committee, where it passed.

* * *

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

Whereas 67% of Ohio State undergraduate students agree that they feel stressed about their finances,¹ and

Whereas the core goals of President Drake’s 2020 Vision are to achieve and maintain access, affordability, and excellence at Ohio State,² and

Whereas undergraduate students at Ohio State, on average, spend \$1,234.00 per academic year on textbooks and supplies,³ and

Whereas the high cost of textbooks places a significant financial burden on students, and

Whereas there are more affordable textbooks and supplemental learning materials available as alternatives to the expensive traditional textbooks that are typically selected for use in Ohio State classrooms, and

Whereas open source textbooks are free, online textbooks that have been written and reviewed by faculty from a variety of colleges and universities who are experts in their fields,⁴ and

Whereas websites such as the University of Minnesota’s Open Source Textbook Library provide universal access to open source textbooks,⁵ and

Whereas on average, using open source textbooks in place of traditional textbooks saves students 80%,⁴ and

Whereas new editions of textbooks are often substantively similar to older editions,⁶ and

¹ <http://cssl.osu.edu/posts/documents/ohio-state-university.pdf>

² <http://president.osu.edu/presidents/drake/speeches-and-statements/investiture-address-march-31-2015.html>

³ <https://sfa.osu.edu/incoming-freshmen/about-aid/financial-aid-eligibility>

⁴ <http://studentpirgs.org/open-textbooks>

⁵ <http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/SearchResults.aspx?subjectAreaId=9>

⁶ <http://www.studentpirgs.org/reports/sp/textbooks-21st-century>

38 **Whereas** choosing an older but substantively similar edition of a textbook rather than the newest
39 edition can result in significant savings for students,⁷ and

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41 **Whereas** some textbook publishers provide online alternatives to the traditional printed versions
42 of some textbooks at a fraction of the cost,⁶ and

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44 **Whereas** there are also strategies and actions that can be taken by faculty to reduce the financial
45 strain of textbooks on students, and

46
47 **Whereas** giving students textbook titles in advance allows more time for students to compare
48 sellers and seek the most affordable textbook prices, and

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50 **Whereas** faculty members may create and post custom online video modules as an alternative or
51 supplemental learning material, and

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53 **Whereas** the course materials in many courses do not change over the span of several years,
54 eliminating the need for faculty to create new modules each year;

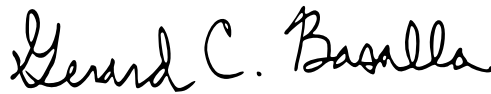
55
56 **Therefore Let it Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government recommends that
57 faculty and administration select and utilize more affordable options when choosing educational
58 materials, and

59
60 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government supports collaboration
61 between students and administration to employ solutions that further reduce the financial burden
62 of textbook costs for students.

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66 Floor Vote: Passed.

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71 Gerard Basalla
72 President

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71 Danielle Di Scala
72 Vice President

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76 Date Adopted: 10/26/16

Date Terminated: _____

⁷ <http://www.studentpirgs.org/resources/textbook-faculty-recommendations>