

## **A Resolution in Support of Open Textbooks**

WHEREAS, the price of textbooks rose eighty-eight percent in the past decade, according to the Consumer Price Index; and

WHEREAS, the cost of college textbooks is often a major affordability issue for students, who take on additional loan debt to pay for textbooks, or undercut their own learning by forgoing the purchase of textbooks; and

WHEREAS, textbook publishers have not responded adequately to the concerns of students, faculty, and other stakeholders about textbook pricing; and

WHEREAS, faculty, students, and administrators all share a concern about textbook affordability and its impact on student success; and

WHEREAS, an 'open textbook' is defined as: a textbook written by education professionals and released online under an open license permitting everyone to freely use, print, share, and adapt the material; and

WHEREAS, open textbooks offer an affordable, comparable, and flexible alternative to expensive commercial textbooks; and

WHEREAS, it is the prerogative of faculty members to select the course materials that are most appropriate for a class; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for faculty members to seek and consider using open educational resources (OER), including open textbooks, in their courses as long as there is no reduction in educational quality; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that students using OER perform as well, if not better, in their classes compared to students using traditional textbooks; and

WHEREAS, universities that have created programs to increase their use of OER are already saving their students millions of dollars in textbook costs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that [Student Government] supports the use of open textbooks at [University]; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that [Student Government] encourages faculty members to consider open textbooks and other low-cost course materials when selecting textbooks for their classes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that [Student Government] encourages [University] to offer support to faculty members who consider and adopt open textbooks, when academically appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that [Student Government] urges [University] to [CREATE A FORMAL OER PROGRAM/EXPAND ITS OER PROGRAM] to increase the use of open textbooks on our campus, including [add details for what you want your pilot program to include]; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that [Student Government] calls on the [State] legislature and [State] representatives in Congress to support open textbooks as a solution to high textbook costs.