



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Senate Resolution

Senate Resolution #: 19

Sponsored by: Senator Denton

Whereas: The price of college textbooks has risen at more than 300% the rate of U.S. inflation since 1977, with a 90% increase over the past decade alone; and

Whereas: Students increasingly report not purchasing textbooks due to high prices; and

Whereas: Textbook publishers have not responded adequately to the concerns of students, faculty, and other stakeholders; and

Whereas: Open Educational Resources are published under open copyright licenses that empower teachers and learners to own and control content, use content in a wide range of ways, revise content, combine original content with other material, and share content with others; and

Whereas: It is the prerogative of faculty to select the course materials that are most appropriate for a class; and

Whereas: It is appropriate to seek and consider low- and no-cost options, including open textbooks, as long as there is no reduction in educational quality; and

Whereas: Faculty and students both share a concern about textbook affordability and its impact on student success; and

Whereas: In a 2017 engagement survey conducted by FSU Libraries across campus, it was found that 93% of students would use an online textbook if it was free, 97% of students believe that a \$30 print textbook would reduce financial strain, 72% of students have decided not to purchase a required textbook due to high prices, and 11% of students have decided not to take a course due to the price of the textbook; and

Whereas: FSU Libraries offer Alternative Textbook grants to support faculty and instructors in their efforts to replace commercial textbooks with open alternatives that are available at no cost to students; therefore

Be it resolved by the Seventy-first Student Senate at The Florida State University that: The Florida State University Student Senate encourages FSU faculty to consider the financial burden traditional textbooks place on students and, in an effort to improve access and equity, to assign alternatives like open textbooks where available without sacrificing the quality of educational material; and

Be it further resolved that: the Florida State Student Senate encourages FSU educators to include the cost of textbooks on their syllabi at competitive prices; and


Be it further resolved that: a copy of this resolution is sent to the following:

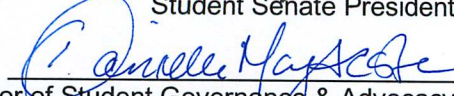
John Thrasher, FSU President
Sally E. McRorie, FSU Provost
Karen L. Laughlin, Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Gale Etschmaier, Dean of University Libraries
Eric Chicken, Undergraduate Policy Committee Chair
Todd Adams, Faculty Senate President



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
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OFFICIALS:


Student Senate President


Director of Student Governance & Advocacy

SENATE VOTE: 45-0-0
PASSED: 28TH OF MARCH, 2019

