



Associated Students of Sonoma State University

RESOLUTION

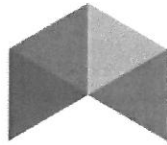
Response to AB 798: College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015

- WHEREAS The Associated Students is the single recognized voice of over 9,300 students at Sonoma State University; and
- WHEREAS The mission of the Associated Students is to enrich the lives of Sonoma State students; and
- WHEREAS Textbook affordability has been an issue due to the 82%¹ increase in textbooks over the past decade; and
- WHEREAS Students nationally spend on average \$1,200 on textbooks and supplies each year; and
- WHEREAS The average Sonoma State student is expected to spend on average \$1,764 on textbooks and supplies 2015-2016 fiscal year²; and
- WHEREAS Students often reduce their course load to alleviate the financial burden; and
- WHEREAS Consequently, fewer students are graduating in four years; and
- WHEREAS Sonoma State started TAP (Textbook Affordability Project) in which seven (7) professors decided to participate and feedback from students was positive; and received a \$10,000 grant to implement the Textbook Affordability Project (TAP) for the 2015-2016 academic year; and
- WHEREAS AB 798 is a Open Educational Resources Adoption Incentive Fund to make textbooks and other related materials affordable; and ³
- WHEREAS AB 798 encourages staff and faculty to adopt open and alternative resources; and
- WHEREAS Open textbooks are more affordable, user friendly option where the instructor can design content that is specific to each course as needed; and

¹ <http://www.uspirg.org/news/usp/survey-shows-students-opting-out-buying-high-cost-textbooks>

² https://www.sonoma.edu/finaid/cost_of_attendance/1516_costs.html

³ http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB798



ASSOCIATED
STUDENTS

WHEREAS Materials used in open textbooks are augmented with course readings from multiple books, texts, articles, videos, and audio recordings.

Let it hereby be resolved that the Associated Students of Sonoma State University supports AB 798; and

Let it hereby be further resolved that the Associated Students of Sonoma State University implores Sonoma State University to request a grant through the Open Educational Resources Adoption Incentive Fund as an additional resource for open and affordable textbook options; and

Let it hereby be further resolved that the Associated Students of Sonoma State University requested that the Sonoma State University's Academic Senate start developing a plan for the Open Educational Resources Adoption Incentive Fund.

ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE AS SENATE BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2015.

CERTIFIED AS THE TRUE AND CORRECT COPY, IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE SET MY SIGNATURE AS CHAIR OF THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, THIS
THE 20th DAY OF, October 2015.



BIANCA ROSE, CHAIR OF THE SENATE

CERTIFIED AS INCLUDED IN THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE SET MY SIGNATURE AS CORPORATE SECRETARY, THIS
THE 20 DAY OF, October 2015.



KATE CHAVEZ, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



Resolution to: Associated Students, Inc. Board of Directors
Resolution 2017-02
Authored By: Rhiannon Ripley

Whereas, the Associated Students, Inc. of the California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) Board of Directors is the official governing body of the students of CSUSM; and

Whereas, Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) of California State University San Marcos is the primary advocate for students at CSUSM and is dedicated to providing services designed to create and enhance a learning-focused campus environment; and

Whereas, it is ASI’s mission to serve, engage, and empower students, ASI has the responsibility to inform CSUSM Students about issues that affect our student population; and

Whereas, the increase of textbook costs have risen faster than increase of tuition costs in the past ten years¹; and

Whereas, publishers have controlled the textbook market by creating access codes that give students access to an online textbook, homework, and quizzes²; and

Whereas, many publishers have “bundled” access codes and textbooks together, forcing students to purchase expensive bundles rather than low-cost-alternatives; and

Whereas, these codes expire after a certain time preventing referral of the text in the future and resale of the costly textbook; and

Whereas, this relationship of access codes to grades is inequitable due to its preventing some students from succeeding in their courses on the basis of their ability to afford the access codes; and

Whereas, a 2013-2014 California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) survey³ found that:

1. almost 90% of CSUSM Students base their textbook purchases on lowest cost;
2. about 70% of CSUSM Students felt that their grade was negatively impacted when they decided to not purchase a textbook they could not afford.
3. about 50% of courses at CSUSM do not use the textbook(s) that were assigned by professors;
4. only 15.3% of CSUSM Students talk with their professors about the costs of textbooks;
5. 67% of courses offered only “bundled” materials;

1: <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/college-tuition-and-fees-increase-63-percent-since-january-2006.htm>

2: <http://www.studentpirgs.org/reports/sp/access-denied>

3: <https://app.surveygizmo.com/reportsview/?key=9390-2912341-12eaf4347e7e5b0ec7c2d6824ff8660a>

43 6. only 16.6% of CSUSM Students who purchased the bundled materials
44 found the bundled online materials had enhanced their learning
45 experience; and

46 Whereas, it is part of CSUSM’s values to be dedicated⁴ to:

- 47 1. Intellectual Engagement through learning, teaching, discovery, and
48 application of knowledge.
49 3. Integrity through academic freedom.
50 4. Innovation through openness to change, flexibility, and
51 responsiveness; and
52

53 Whereas, the rising costs of textbooks limits intellectual engagement and innovation to only
54 those who can afford the increased costs; and
55

56 Whereas, the continued use of access codes prevents CSUSM from fulfilling its academic
57 missions equitably because it is inequitable to have CSUSM Students’ grades dependent on
58 being able to afford access codes; and
59

60 Whereas, the continued use of access codes and high cost textbooks negatively impacts
61 CSUSM accomplishing its mission to:

- 62 1.7 Provide academic and student service support for student retention,
63 success, and graduation;
64 1.9 Provide students and faculty with the library materials, appropriate
65 equipment, and classroom/laboratory supplies to support the learning
66 environment;
67 5.5 Provide equal access to technology and information; and
68

69 Whereas, the California State Assembly and Governor Jerry Brown passed Assembly Bill
70 798 (AB 798) which calls for campuses to “increase student access to high-quality open
71 educational resources and reduce the cost of textbooks and supplies for students”⁵; and
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73 Whereas, the California State University San Marcos Academic Senate passed a resolution
74 that supports AB 798 ⁶; and
75

76 Whereas, the resolution also “urges all faculty to explore ways to increase the use of high-
77 quality, low or no cost, accessible instruction materials alternatives and consider participating in
78 the Open Educational Resources (OER) and Cougar Affordability Learning Materials (CALM)”;
79 and
80

81 Whereas, the CSU began its Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS) in 2010 after the 2008
82 the Higher Education Opportunities Act (HEOA) was signed into federal law; and
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85 Whereas, the purpose and intent of the HEOA regarding textbooks was amended to
86 “encourage all of the involved parties, including faculty, students, administrators, institutions of

4: http://www.csusm.edu/president/documents/2014/StrategicPlan_march2014.pdf

5: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB798

6: https://www.csusm.edu/senate/images/CSUSM%20Senate%20Resolution%20AS%20717-15_In%20Support%20of%20AB%20798.pdf

7: <http://als.csuprojects.org/heoa>

87 higher education, bookstores, distributors, and publishers, to work together to identify ways to
88 decrease the cost of college textbooks and supplemental materials for students while supporting
89 the academic freedom of faculty members to select high quality course materials for students⁸”;
90 and

91
92 Whereas, CALM has already saved CSUSM Students over 2 million dollars since 2014⁹;
93 and

94
95 Whereas, CALM members dedicate themselves to help educators incorporate cost reduced
96 textbooks into their class curriculum; and

97
98 Whereas, the requirements for faculty to participate includes but is not limited to;
99 1. replacing some or all current texts with free or [OERs]; and
100 2. total student savings be at least \$1,000 per course section; and

101
102 Whereas, there is a positive relationship between CALM courses and student success
103 compared to courses who had not lowered textbook costs through avenues such as CALM
104 participation; and therefore be it

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106 Resolved, that Associated Students, Inc. Board of Directors of CSUSM support AB 798;
107 and be it

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109 Resolved, that Associated Students, Inc. Board of Directors of CSUSM strongly urges:
110 1. it become a priority of CSUSM and its Academic Affairs to reduce the
111 costs of textbooks and other course materials; and
112 2. that Academic Affairs develop goals with ASI student representation
113 focusing on how they will work to prevent the costs of educational
114 materials from rising; and
115 3. college Deans and Chairs encourage faculty to utilize OERs or other
116 cost effective educational materials; and
117 4. faculty look into applying for CALM and OER grants; and
118 5. faculty adopt more cost effective alternatives such as older editions or
119 OERs, when it is possible to do so without unduly sacrificing the
120 academic quality of the course; and
121 6. faculty remove unused, rarely used, or partially used textbooks that are
122 only reference for a few chapters from their syllabi; and
123 7. faculty move away from the usage of online materials -such as
124 Cengage- for the sake of assignments; and
125 8. faculty invite students, within their syllabi, to inform faculty of the
126 impact of textbook costs, when these are too great and have an impact
127 on student success; and
128 9. faculty will take advantage of the help from the CALM to learn how to
129 negotiate textbook prices with publishers, especially with their own
130 written works,; and be it further

131
132 Resolved, that Associated Students, Inc. Board of Directors of CSUSM:

8: <http://als.csuprojects.org/uploads/4U/gH/4UgHuRctkHQM24t3QrKUzA/HEOATextbookProvision.pdf>

9: <http://www.csusm.edu/ids/calm/>

- 133 1. supports the textbook cost reduction efforts of CALM; and
134 2. work with CALM as the representing body for all CSUSM students by
135 joining the discussion and decision making table; and
136 3. educate students on CALM and OERs so CSUSM Students are
137 empowered to communicate with their professors; and be it
138

139 Resolved, that Associated Students, Inc. forwards this resolution to the CSUSM Office of
140 the President, Chancellor Timothy White, the California State Student Association, the
141 California Faculty Association, the CSU Board of Trustees, the Cougar Chronicle Newspaper,
142 the CSUSM Academic Senate, and all CSUSM Student Organizations.

4: http://www.csusm.edu/president/documents/2014/StrategicPlan_march2014.pdf

5: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB798

6: https://www.csusm.edu/senate/images/CSUSM%20Senate%20Resolution%20AS%20717-15_In%20Support%20of%20AB%20798.pdf

7: <http://als.csuprojects.org/heoa>

1 **Resolution in Support of California State University, Los Angeles Participation in the Open Educational**
2 **Resources Adoption Incentive Program of the College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015**
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4 WHEREAS on October 8, 2015, Assembly Bill 798, "College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015," was
5 signed into law by the Governor of California; and
6

7 WHEREAS AB 798 aims to "reduce costs for college students by encouraging faculty to accelerate the
8 adoption of lower cost, high-quality open education resources"; and
9

10 WHEREAS AB 798 creates an incentive program to reward CSU campuses, faculty and staff for
11 accelerated adoption of open educational resources, up to an a \$50,000 grant to the campus; and
12

13 WHEREAS to be eligible for the grant funds, AB 798 required the local academic senate to adopt a
14 resolution and a plan in support of increasing student access to high-quality open educational resources
15 and reducing the cost of textbooks and supplies for students; and
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17 WHEREAS textbook prices rose eighty-two percent between 2002 and 2012, about three times the rate
18 of inflation;¹ and
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20 WHEREAS sixty-five percent of students report not buying or renting one or more assigned textbooks
21 because the cost was too high;² and
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23 WHEREAS by reducing student course material expenses, more students acquire the course materials
24 they need to succeed and benefit from their CSU learning experience; therefore, be it
25

26 RESOLVED that the Academic Senate of California State University, Los Angeles supports and encourages
27 CSU faculty to consider using high-quality, low-cost or no-cost, accessible textbook alternatives, such as
28 the California Open Online Library for Education (COOL4Ed); and be it further
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30 RESOLVED that the Academic Senate charge its Executive Committee to work with the Program for
31 Affordable Learning Materials with soliciting faculty, students, and staff representatives for an ad-hoc
32 working group to develop a specific plan as required in AB 798 and request that this plan be presented
33 to the Academic Senate as an Information Item at a future meeting, prior to submission to the
34 Chancellor of the California State University; and be it further
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36 RESOLVED that the Academic Senate of California State University, Los Angeles distribute this resolution
37 to the University President, Provost & Vice-President for Academic Affairs, all campus faculty, and
38 Associated Students, Inc.
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¹ "Students Have Greater Access to Textbook Information," U.S. Government Accountability Office, June 6, 2013, <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-368>

² "Fixing the Broken Textbook Market." Student PIRGs. January 27, 2014.