

Resolution of Support for Affordable Textbooks at UCSC

Whereas the price of textbooks is increasing at a higher rate than any other good or service (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics); and,

Whereas UC students are spending an average of \$500 per quarter on textbooks (U.S. PIRG 2013 survey); and,

Whereas many students cannot afford to purchase the required course material including all class work behind the pay wall of access codes; and,

Whereas 80% of UC students have reported having to buy an access code for a class (U.S. PIRG 2013 survey); and,

Whereas college expenses are extremely costly and impact other aspects of student life: including rising rent prices, basic necessities, and food; and,

Whereas low-income students are disproportionately disadvantaged since there are no alternatives to access codes.

Let it be resolved that the Student Union Assembly urges the University of California Santa Cruz to promote alternative resources to expensive, required textbooks and access codes to facilitate accessible course material for all students.

1. Provide alternative low-cost material in all courses to allow the highly impacted student body and low-income students the ability to access required material without negatively affecting their education.
2. Establish and maintain affordable or free textbooks on campus through alternative resources, such as Open Educational Resources (OER), library e-books, publishing free PDF formats, or assigning library-licensed research articles as required text.
3. Invite academic advising, financial aid and all organizations on campus to encourage and urge the use of affordable resources for course material.
4. Provide funding and recognition to allow professors the ability to upload their original textbooks through Open Educational Resources (OER)
5. Promote UCSC professors to peer revise currently accessible Open Educational Resources textbooks to encourage the adaptation and use of alternative forms of textbooks.

Citations

1. "College Tuition and Fees Increase 63 Percent since January 2006 : The Economics Daily." *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/college-tuition-and-fees-increase-63-percent-since-january-2006.htm.
2. Senack, Ethan, editor. 2014, uspirg.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/NATIONAL%20Fixing%20Broken%20Textbooks%20Report1.pdf.
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