

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSÉ, CA 95192**

SS-S16-6, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Supporting Efforts to Reduce Costs for Textbooks by Encouraging the Use of High-Quality Open Educational Resource Course Material

Legislative History: At its meeting of May 9, 2016, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Chair Kimbarow for the Executive Committee.

**Sense of the Senate Resolution
Supporting Efforts to Reduce Costs for Textbooks by Encouraging
the Use of High-Quality Open Educational Resource Course Material**

- Whereas, Assembly Bill 798 (AB 798), “College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015” aims to encourage faculty to consider alternatives to high-cost textbooks by adopting open educational resources (OER) of high quality that will reduce student costs; and
- Whereas, AB 798 has created a financial and professional development incentive program to facilitate faculty development, consideration, and integration of high quality OER materials into their courses; and
- Whereas, The State legislature has recognized the role of the faculty and senates on each campus to control all issues pertaining to curriculum, and
- Whereas, The SJSU Academic Senate has been actively engaged over the last decade in addressing issues pertaining to curricular and infrastructure developments that benefit our students, as evidenced by [SS-S06-5](#), “Improving Textbook Affordability and Availability”; and
- Whereas, Support for the adoption of high-quality OER is not intended to prevent faculty from continuing to publish in the venues of their choice or from selecting course materials in the format pedagogically best suited for instruction; and
- Whereas, AB 798 requires the support of each campus’ senates to be eligible for the incentives; therefore be it
- Resolved, That the Academic Senate of San José State University affirms its support of the principles of academic freedom and the right of faculty to manage course material; and be it further

- Resolved, That controlling the rising costs of a college education in California is a multi-faceted issue and the SJSU Academic Senate calls upon the legislature to fund the CSU at adequate levels and that we continue to advocate to restore the necessary state support for the CSU; and be it further
- Resolved, That the SJSU Academic Senate calls upon book publishers and the bookstore to commit to reducing student costs of textbooks; and be it further
- Resolved, That the SJSU Academic Senate support faculty efforts to reduce student costs of attending our university and that we recognize the many faculty who have already committed the extraordinary time and effort needed to substantively develop and integrate into their courses, in a responsible manner, alternatives to high-cost materials; and be it further
- Resolved, That, while acknowledging that this is only one mechanism to control the high cost of attending college, the Academic Senate supports the tenets of AB 798 and directly quotes the required legislative language calling for campuses to “increase student access to high-quality open educational resources and reduce the cost of textbooks and supplies for students in course sections for which open educational resources are to be adopted to accomplish cost savings for students.”

- Approved: May 2, 2016
- Vote: 7-2-6
- Present: Kimbarow, Blaylock, Heiden, Peter, Mathur, Larochele, Frazier, Shifflett, Kaufman, Lee, Martin, Amante, Lanning, Backer, Feinstein
- Absent: None
- Curricular Impact: As with the adoption of any new course materials, course curricula may need to be updated or changed to reflect faculty choices of OER materials.
- Financial Impact: If faculty choose OER materials for their courses, there will be significant cost-savings for students.
- Workload Impact: If faculty decide to use OER materials for their courses, they will need to devote significant additional time to assessing the quality of available materials, to revising their course activities and curricula, and to participating in AB 798 grant-related professional development activities. There will be additional workload for the Affordable Solutions team on campus and the Center for Faculty Development as they coordinate efforts across faculty and provide support to faculty in searching for OER materials equal to, or higher than, the quality of higher cost texts and course materials. Workload will also increase for those engaged in the review of proposals from faculty interested in this grant opportunity.