THE SIXTY THIRD STUDENT SENATE

Resolution 11

Sponsored by: Senator Drake

WHEREAS: The cost of college textbooks has become a major affordability issue for low and middle income students, adding to the potential that these students will either drop out, 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 these concerns, but have continued to exacerbate this problem by raising prices and employing practices such as unnecessarily issuing new editions of textbooks, and

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

WHEREAS: Open Textbooks and other open educational resources present an affordable, comparable, and flexible alternative to expensive course materials, and

WHEREAS: Open Textbooks are available online at no cost to students, and they can be printed for a low cost in various formats, which ensures that all students have equal access to the content, while still preserving the option to use a conventional textbook format, and

WHEREAS: Open Textbooks that are of comparable quality to commercial textbooks that are already available. An example of an open textbook is Caltech Professor R. Preston McAfee's Introduction to Economic Analysis, which has been adopted at NYU and Harvard, and

WHEREAS: Open Textbooks are flexible; Instructors are free to use a particular edition indefinitely or customize content if desired, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SIXTY-THIRD STUDENT SENATE AT THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:

We must address the problem of expensive textbooks without undermining the academic freedom of faculty to choose course content. We affirm that it is our duty and responsibility to help establish a program to seek affordable and accessible course materials for the students of The Florida State University whenever possible. We declare our intent to assist the FSU faculty to seek and consider open textbooks and other open educational resources when choosing course materials. We declare our desire to give preference to a low or no cost educational resource such as an open textbook over an expensive, traditional textbook if it best fits the needs of a class. We encourage institutions to develop support for the use of open textbooks and other open educational resources.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

A copy of this resolution is sent to the following:

Dustin Daniels, Student Body President
Dr. Eric J. Barron, President of Florida State University
Joseph Travis, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
Caryn L. Beck-Dudley, Dean of the College of Business
Lawrence C. Dennis, Dean of the College of Communication & Information
Thomas Blomberg, Dean of the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Dr. Marcy P. Driscoll, Dean of the College of Education
Ching-Jen Chen, Dean of the College of Engineering
Frank Patterson, Dean of the College of Motion Picture Arts
Billie J. Collier, Dean of the College of Human Sciences
Donald J. Weidner, Dean of the College of Law
Dean Fogarty, Dean of the College of Medicine
Don Gibson, Dean of the College of Music
Lisa Ann Plowfield, Dean of the College of Nursing
David W. Rasmussen, Dean of the College of Social Sciences & Public Policy
Nicholas F. Mazza, Dean of the College of Social Work
Dr. Sally E. McRorie, Dean of the College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance

CE Chance
Student Senate President

Mattié Durham
Student Senate Program Assistant

PASSED: 10th of November, 2010