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 Vice-Chair Varela
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First Reading: October 15th, 2024;
Committee Action: Passed 11-0-2
Second Reading: October 30th, 2024;
 Passed 27-0-1
Third Reading: November 7th, 2024;
Final Vote: Passed 37-0-1



University of Central Florida
Fifty-Sixth Student Body Senate
Resolution 56-09

[Resolution Advocating for the University of Central Florida to Support the Use of Open Educational Resources]

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 2.04(G)(1) states the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee shall pass measures advocating on behalf of the student body regarding student, and university affairs;
WHEREAS, Article 2.05(C) of the Student Body Constitution states that the Student Body Senate shall express the will and sentiments of the Student Body Senate through legislation;
WHEREAS, Research conducted by the United States Public Interest Research Group has found that 63% of college students have skipped buying a textbook and 17% of students have skipped buying an access code due to cost;
WHEREAS, The 2022 Florida Virtual Campus Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey found that 43.7% of students have taken fewer courses, 38.5% have not registered for a specific course, and 32.4% attributed earning a poor grade due to textbook cost;
WHEREAS, The price of textbooks has risen at approximately three times the rate of inflation over the past twenty years;
WHEREAS, The 2021 Florida Legislative Session eliminated the \$600 textbook stipend for Academic Scholars Bright Futures recipients, which provided \$37 million for students to offset textbook costs;
WHEREAS, Part of the justification for eliminating the program was for the state of Florida to increase open-access digital textbook offerings at universities;
WHEREAS, The cost of college textbooks is often a major affordability issue for students;
WHEREAS, Students take on additional loan debt to pay for textbooks or undercut their own learning by forgoing the purchase of textbooks;
WHEREAS, Textbook publishers have not responded adequately to the concerns of students, faculty, and other stakeholders;
WHEREAS, UCF's Affordable Instructional Materials (AIM) Initiative endeavors to provide increased affordability of instructional material through reducing costs;
WHEREAS, The AIM Initiative encompasses four pillars, one of which is Open Educational Resources (OERs);
WHEREAS, OERs are defined as educational materials, such as textbooks and homework packages, that are free to access, easy to share, affordable to print, and written by education professionals under an open license;
WHEREAS, OERs offer an affordable and flexible alternative with material that is comparable to expensive, commercial textbooks;
WHEREAS, The Division of Digital Learning, UCF Libraries, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, and the UCF Bookstore need to be properly supported to achieve their mission of removing barriers to educational materials through the implementation of OERs;
WHEREAS, It is the prerogative of faculty to select the course materials that are most appropriate for a class;
WHEREAS, It is appropriate to seek and consider low and no-cost options, including open textbooks, as long as there is no reduction in quality;
WHEREAS, Faculty and students both share a concern about textbook affordability and its impact on student success; **WHEREAS**, The Florida Department of Education 2020 Affordability Report concluded that the Florida College System will continue to innovate and implement strategies to ensure access to a high-quality education in the most affordable manner possible; and
WHEREAS, The other three AIM pillars are concerned, as for the First Day program it is appropriate to maintain an 'opt-in' First Day (inclusive access) program to safeguard student choice for required course materials purchases rather than an 'opt-out' automatic textbook billing program that charges student accounts without their explicit consent and could result in students being charged per credit hour for all course materials (i.e. First Day Complete) which would add the course materials cost to classes using free-to-student OERs and library sourced materials.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fifty-Sixth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida encourages the University of Central Florida to continue to support the use of Open Educational Resources;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Fifty-Sixth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida encourages faculty to consider Open Educational Resources when selecting course materials;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Fifty-Sixth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida encourages the University of Central Florida to offer support to faculty to consider and adopt Open Educational Resources, such as professional development workshops, additional library support services, and stipends to support course transition;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fifty-Sixth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida encourages the University of Central Florida to maintain its current opt-in model for the First Day automatic textbook billing program and discourages the implementation of an opt-out textbook buying program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the University of Central Florida Board of Trustees, University of Central Florida President Alexander Cartwright, Vice President for Student Success and Well-Being Adrienne Frame, Vice President for Access and Community Engagement Andrea Guzman, College of Arts and Humanities Dean Jeffrey Moore, College of Business Dean Paul Jarley, College of Community Innovation and Education Dean Grant Hayes, College of Health Professions and Sciences Dean, College of Sciences Dean Maggy Tomova, College of Engineering & Computer Science Dean Michael Georgiopoulos, College of Optics and Photonics Dean David J. Hagan, College of Undergraduate Studies Associate Dean Wayne H. Bowen, College of Undergraduate Studies Associate Dean Robin M. Back, College of Graduate Studies Vice Provost and Dean Dr. Elizabeth A. Klonoff, Rosen College of Hospitality Management Dean Cynthia Mejia, College of Medicine Dean Deborah German, College of Nursing Dean Mary Lou Sole, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael D. Johnson, Vice Provost for Digital Learning Thomas Cavanagh, Berry, Senior Vice President for Student Success Paul Dosal, Chair of the Faculty Senate Textbook Committee Eric Schmidbauer, and Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Director Kevin Yee.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES



Allison Pohlmann
Senate President

11/13/2024

Date



Danishka Morissette
Senate President Pro Tempore

01/08/2024

Date