



University Student Senate
555 West 57th Street, 1420
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (646) 664-8844
Website: www.usscunyc.org

RESOLUTION

To: Senators, CUNY University Student Senate
From: Farbod Hadizadeh Moghadam, USS Vice Chair for Senior Colleges
Date: February 23, 2019
Title: USS Resolution 1819-P04: Open Educational Resources for CUNY

WHEREAS, it is the prerogative of faculty to select the course materials that are most appropriate for class; and

WHEREAS, textbook publishers have not responded adequately to the concerns of student faculty, and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the price of textbooks has risen at four times the rate of inflation in the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the College Board¹ has found that average student spends \$600 to \$1200 per year on textbooks; and

WHEREAS, the cost of college textbooks is often a major affordability issue for students, who take on additional loan debt to pay for textbooks, or undercut their own learning by forgoing the purchase of textbooks; and

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2018² Governor Andrew M. Cuomo allocated \$4 million for Open Educational Resources Initiative at CUNY, hoping to cut the high cost of textbooks for students; and

WHEREAS, an 'open textbook' is defined as an: online, free to access, easy to share, and affordable print textbook written by education professionals under an open license; and

WHEREAS, open textbooks offer an affordable, comparable and flexible alternative to expensive, commercial textbook; and

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; and

¹ <https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/average-estimated-undergraduate-budgets-2018-19>

² <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-8-million-open-educational-resources-initiative-su-ny-and-cuny-cut-high>



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WHEREAS, faculty and students both share a concern about textbook affordability and its impact on student success; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the University Student Senate calls for the universal use of open textbook; and, be it

RESOLVED, that the University Student Senate encourages faculty to adopt open textbooks and other low-cost course materials when selecting textbooks; and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, that the University Student Senate encourages the City University of New York to offer the support needed to faculty in order to adopt open textbooks