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**S.R. 2017-2018**

**A Resolution to be entitled “A Resolution to Reduce the Cost of in Classroom Resources” For the Purpose of limiting the use of costly third-party applications to accomplish basic in class functions**

**WHEREAS:** As an institute of higher education Texas State University is committed to providing students with an unparalleled academic experience, ensuring they have the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed and;

**WHEREAS:** To succeed in the classroom, students often need access to products and services that are not included in the cost of tuition and fees, including but not limited to specialized equipment, software, devices, instruments, and other items and;

**WHEREAS:** Because of this, it is common for professors to require such materials for class assignments, increasing costs beyond what is covered by tuition and fees and;

**WHEREAS:** Due to the great expense of college, Texas State University has a responsibility to ensure that these additional requirements are reasonable, necessary, and useful. Expenses should be limited to what is deemed important to the function of the course and the ability of students and faculty to succeed, avoiding redundancy of services, and maximizing efficiency and;

**WHEREAS:** Such unnecessary costs are prevalent in the form of attendance and homework systems provided by third party companies, notable examples being Tophat and Sapling Learning, as Texas State University already has systems in place such as TRACS and I.D. Scanners that allow attendance and assignments to be managed without additional cost to the student and;

**WHEREAS:** Students and families have struggled with increasingly limited financial resources due to the soaring cost of education. Tuition and mandatory fees have increased significantly over the past several years, rising from $4116 to $5310 for 15 credit hours since Fall 2011 and;

**WHEREAS:** Between 2002 and 2015, Texas State University’s Tuition Increase was 156%, compared to the 147% state average (Texas Tribune). The median income in Texas experienced a mere 32% increase in median household income during the same period (Houston Chronicle) and;

**WHEREAS:** Many economists have speculated that rising costs of college tuition constitute the next economic bubble due to unsustainable cost growth and increasingly difficult questions about returns on investment and the short and long-term effects of student loan defaults (Fortune Magazine) and;

**WHEREAS:** Signs of this are already being seen, as higher education enrollment plateaus or even declines across the nation (National Review) and;

**WHEREAS:** This situation makes it essential that Texas State University take every measure reasonable to remain competitive in this set of circumstances and;

**WHEREAS:** Student government has already passed legislation in favor of open textbook resources, working to reduce one of the most burdensome costs of college and;

**WHEREAS:** The effectiveness of this program is partially dependent on ensuring cost increases are not shifted to other areas therefore;

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That professors ought not to use third party software, subscriptions, websites, or devices; including but not limited to Sapling Learning, Clickers, and TopHat, for which students must bear additional expense to what they pay for tuition and fees, for the purposes of essential day to day classroom functions and;

**BE IT RESOLVED:** “Essential day to day classroom functions” shall be defined as any task or operation, such as taking attendance, homework submission and grading, in class activities, and test taking, that;

1. Is required for daily classroom activities and the full participation of those involved and;
2. Can be reasonably provided to students through pre-existing or non-third-party systems like TRACS, attendance scanners outside doors of classrooms, or other means which are already funded through tuition and fees and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That understanding the unique needs of particular classes, due to specialized activities or a class size which is especially large, student government declares that the enforcement of this resolution be carried out in the following manner; for classes which choose to continue the use or planned implementation of such paid third party services as previously defined, Texas State University, in collaboration with the professors of those courses should be required to give advanced notice of such classroom policies prior to student enrollment, using the following disclaimer in the course catalog;

“ATTENTION: Taking this course may require the use of a paid third party service to access its full contents”

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That for classes which continue to engage in these practices, alternatives to such classes in a given course ought to be easily available and reasonably accessible to students and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That in instances where avoiding the use of a third-party resource is deemed unreasonable, impractical, or otherwise unavailable as an option, student government encourages the exploration of open educational resource options before committing to a paid service for which students must be subscribed and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That upon passage this legislation shall be forwarded to Student Body President Connor Clegg for further action.