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**A Resolution-**

To be entitled **"*The Affordable Learning Materials Resolution*"** encouraging Texas State University faculty to consider the impact on students of the rising costs of instructional materials when selecting required course textbooks and other learning materials and to take an active role in making learning materials more affordable for students.

**WHEREAS:** Student Government serves as the official voice for students at Texas State University; and

**WHEREAS:** research conducted by the College Board has found that the average student should budget more than $1200 per year for books and supplies; and

**WHEREAS:** the price of college textbooks rose 88% between January 2006 and July 2016 according to data collected and published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

**WHEREAS:** the cost of college textbooks and other required learning materials are 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:** it is the prerogative of faculty to select the course materials that are most appropriate for a course and academic program; and

**WHEREAS:** several learning materials options exist that offer affordable, comparable and flexible alternatives to expensive, commercial textbooks and other learning materials; 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 educational quality; and

**WHEREAS:** faculty and students both share a concern about textbook affordability and its impact on student success; and

**WHEREAS:** Texas State University has formed a committee to study and recommend best practices on the appropriate use of affordable learning materials; and

**WHEREAS:** a representative of Student Government participates on this committee;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that Student Government supports the adoption of affordable learning materials whenever possible; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that Student Government encourages faculty to consider low- and no-cost textbooks and other course materials when selecting required learning materials; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that Student Government encourages Texas State University to offer support to faculty to consider and adopt affordable learning materials, when academically appropriate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that Student Government encourages faculty to work with and support the findings of the university's affordable learning materials committee in an effort to remediate the impact on students of required textbook and other learning materials costs.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** This legislation shall be forwarded to the Student Body President for further action.