

Date: 3 May 2016
To: Senate
From: Academic Policy and Planning
Action: Resolution in support of Open Educational Resources as a means to reduce textbook costs

Resolved: That the SDSU University Senate encourages faculty to consider adopting available and appropriate Open Educational Resource materials that are high quality, low- to no-cost, and accessible.

Resolved: That upon endorsement this resolution shall be distributed to (1) the provost, associate vice presidents for academic affairs, deans, chairs, directors, and faculty; (2) the vice president of student affairs and associate vice presidents of student affairs; and (3) the executive officers of Associated Students.

Rationale: The high and rising costs of commercial textbooks and course materials lead many students to forgo their purchase with negative consequences on their academic success. Open Educational Resources (OER), when reviewed and selected by disciplinary faculty for their own courses, can offer appropriate, accessible, high quality, and low- to no-cost alternatives to commercial textbooks. On October 8, 2015, State Assembly Bill 798*, the “College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015,” was signed into law by the Governor with an explicit intent to “reduce costs for college students by encouraging faculty to accelerate the adoption of lower cost, high-quality open educational resources.” The bill creates an incentive program to reward each CSU campuses with up to \$50,000 to support faculty adoption of OERs and associated course redesign. An explicit requirement to be eligible for these grant funds through AB 798 is that our University Senate adopt a resolution in support of increasing access to OER materials to reduce textbook costs and supplies for students.

SDSU’s Aztec Shops, Student Disability Services, Library Information and Access, Center for Teaching and Learning, and Instructional Technology Services are collaborating to secure up to \$70,000 through AB798 funding and the related CSU Affordable Learning Solutions program (www.affordablelearningsolutions.org). There are two requirements: (1) The University Senate must adopt a resolution that states its support to increase student access to high-quality OER and reduce the cost of textbooks and supplies for students; and (2) a plan that includes evidence of faculty commitment and readiness to effectively use grant funds to support adoption of OER must be developed. These two requirements must be submitted for review by 30 June 2016.

The funding may be used for a variety of activities including:

- Faculty professional development that promotes awareness, education, and outreach
- Professional development for staff who support student use of open educational resources
- Curate OER resources (identify, select, organize, make available)
- Curriculum modification and release time for faculty to support OER adoption
- Support for Campus Coordinator(s) (No more than 30% of the award may be applied.)

- Technology support for faculty, students, and staff

Funding CANNOT be used to support the following:

- Direct compensation for faculty members who adopt open educational resources, except as provided to compensate for professional development
- The development of MOOC's or online courses that include non-matriculated students
- The creation of new OER materials
- The purchase of new equipment
- Past curricular conversions to OER materials

The plan for the use of these resources is in development, and interested faculty are encouraged to complete a short online form to establish their interest at <http://its.sdsu.edu/als/>.

*http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB798