

SENATE RESOLUTION
[NUMBER - [SR-S21-006](#)]

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SPONSOR(S)	Orlando Cabalo (President Pro Tempore)
TITLE	Resolution in Support of Affordable Textbooks Across The UC

WHEREAS, the University of California Students Association passed a resolution in support of affordable textbooks and held that each University of California campus pass a resolution in support of affordable textbooks; and,

WHEREAS, the University of California Regents have designated a STAR, Student Advocate to the Regents, to discuss textbook affordability and its impact on University of California students; and,

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the price of textbooks [has risen 88 percent between 2006 and 2016 in the US](#); and,

WHEREAS, setting aside over \$1,525 for textbooks and material fees each year is a financial burden [many University of California students cannot afford](#); and,

WHEREAS, [65 percent of students](#) report not buying a textbook required for a course because of its price even if they were concerned that their grade would suffer as a result; and,

WHEREAS, [31 percent of students](#) specifically at the University of California, Riverside report working extra hours to afford course materials; and,

WHEREAS, [71 percent of students](#) specifically from the University of California, Riverside expressed significant concern that the choice to not buy a textbook would hurt their grades in their courses; and,

WHEREAS, open textbooks, which are free to read and share under an open copyright license, [can combat the exponential rise of textbook prices](#); and,

WHEREAS, 368 UC professors have signed on in support of open textbook use; and,

WHEREAS, UCLA Libraries' Affordable Course Materials Initiative has [decreased the cost of course materials at UCLA for thousands of students](#) by providing awards for faculty who transition to low-cost course materials; and,

WHEREAS, many other higher-education systems, including the California Community Colleges, the California State Universities, and the State Universities of New York have [launched their own programs to encourage the use of open textbooks](#), making information readily accessible for all students and providing students and their families with financial relief; and,

WHEREAS, [Governor Newsom of California has proposed that 15 million dollars be set aside in the California 2021-2022 state budget for open educational resources in higher education](#) to address textbook affordability for community college students; and,

WHEREAS, the efforts of colleges to invest in open educational resources have [saved students millions of dollars, helped improve academic performance of students, and are cost-efficient for the institutions themselves](#); and,

WHEREAS, the chapters of CALPIRG Students will communicate the support for this initiative, including this resolution and the tangible support of faculty and students, to the University of California Board of Regents;

Now, therefore, be it

- (1) *Let It Be Further Resolved* the 2020-2021 Associated Students of the University of California, Riverside affirms its support for establishing an open textbook grant program UC-wide and supports CALPIRG Students' efforts to establish support; and
- (2) *Let It Be Finally Resolved* the 2020-2021 Associated Students of the University of California, Riverside strongly encourages the UC Regents to implement a UC-wide grant-funded program for open textbooks that would incentivize professors to make the switch to accessible open resources.

Cc: Assemblymember Jose Medina
UC Regents
UCR Chancellor
UCR Provost
Academic Senate Chair
Vice Chancellor Student Affairs
Highlander Newspaper

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COMMITTEE APPROVED ON - *April 19, 2021*

VOTE COUNT - *7-0-0*

SENATE APPROVED ON - *April 21, 2021*

VOTE COUNT - *16-0-0*