



MEMORANDUM

November 9, 2013

TO: Members of the Student Assembly
FROM: Tremayne T. Price, President
SUBJECT: Textbook Affordability Solutions

Action Requested

The proposed resolution calls on the State University of New York faculty and administration to continue to promote finding ways to reduce the costs of textbooks for students throughout the SUNY system.

Resolution

I recommend that the Student Assembly adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the Student Assembly (SA) of the State University of New York (SUNY) is the single recognized voice for over 465,000 students in the SUNY system; and

Whereas the mission of SUNY SA is to empower students to seek continued access to quality, affordable higher education; and

Whereas as a result of the increases in student tuition and fees in the past five years, many SUNY students face economic challenges for completing their SUNY degrees; and

Whereas these tuition and fee increases comes on top of high costs of living expenses and other supplemental educational costs to students such as unreasonably high textbook prices; and

Whereas the high cost of textbooks, put forth by the publishers and bookstore organizations are an undue burden on all students pursuing higher education in the state of New York; and

Whereas the high costs of textbooks can be grounds for discontinuing higher education or improper completion of courses due to lack of affordability; and

Whereas the Student Assembly has identified the following strategies that bookstores, publishers and SUNY faculty can consider adopting to ease the financial burden on students such as

developing custom course materials, allowing for textbook rentals, increasing the used textbook ratio, and increased use of digital materials; and

Whereas by adopting the aforementioned strategies, bookstores can still maintain highly efficient business practices and yet provide substantial savings for the students of the State University of New York; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that in order to ease the financial burden on students, the Student Assembly of the State University of New York urges SUNY campus bookstores, the SUNY faculty and all necessary parties to adopt the various recommendations outlined in this resolution; and, be it further

Resolved that the SUNY Student Assembly recognizes the efforts that SUNY is already making in this regard including the development of new “Open SUNY Textbooks” that will allow open access to free faculty-developed textbooks for some of the most popular electives and majors beginning in the fall; and, be it further

Resolved that the Student Assembly urges all SUNY campus administrations, SUNY faculty and campus bookstores to explore ways to increase faculty knowledge of the low or no cost textbook alternatives available by incorporating presentations into faculty orientations and other training programs or events, hosting system-wide webinars explaining how to find and use the no/low cost materials, and by facilitating strong outreach and advertising campaigns; and, be it finally

Resolved that copies of this resolutions be distributed widely, including, but not limited to, the SUNY Board of Trustees, SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher, University Faculty Senate, Faculty Council of Community Colleges, SUNY Campus Presidents, and SUNY Student Government Associations.