



**RESOLUTION No. 2018-19-07**

**AUTHORED BY:** Genesee Black-Lanouette, College of Professional Studies Representative;  
Maddie Halloran, Graduate Representative

**REFERRED TO: A.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**ACTION SCHEDULED April 29, 2019**

**SUBJECT: An Act to Support AB 798, Affordable Textbooks, the Activities of Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS), and SB 1359 or Zero Cost Course Material (ZCCM) designation.**

**WHEREAS**, the Associated Student Board of Directors (A.S. BoD) of Humboldt State University (HSU) is the single recognized voice for over 7,500 students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mission of the A.S. BoD of Humboldt State University serves to "assist in the protection of rights and interests of the individual student and the student body," and to "stimulate the educational, social, physical, and cultural well-being of the University community"; and,

**WHEREAS**, survey results of 309 HSU students during fall 2016 showed: 65% of students indicated they skipped buying a required textbooks because of its costs, and 22.6% said they have not taken or have dropped a course because of textbook costs;

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2018 survey by CSU Affordable Learning Solutions, 79 percent of students reported that the cost of course materials causes stress, one out of three students in the CSU system pick classes based off of the cost of course material, and, one out of three students must choose between the cost of food and course materials at some point in their college experience; and,

**WHEREAS**, students may reduce their course load due to financial barriers; and, some students are unable to graduate in four years due to financial barriers like the cost of course materials; and,

**WHEREAS**, publishers control the textbook market by creating access codes that give students access to an online textbook, homework, and quizzes; and have "bundled" access codes and textbooks together, forcing students to purchase expensive bundles rather than low-cost-alternatives; and these codes expire after a certain time preventing resale or reuse of the textbook in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the relationship of access codes and textbook costs to grades is inequitable as it prevents some students from succeeding in their courses on the basis of their ability to afford the access codes and/or textbooks; and

**WHEREAS**, the California State Assembly and Governor Jerry Brown passed Assembly Bill 798 (AB 798) in 2015, which calls for campuses to “increase student access to high-quality open educational resources and reduce the cost of textbooks and supplies for students”; and provides \$15k in funding a year to each campus; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 1359 was passed in 2017 and requires Zero Cost Course Material designation to be present during class registration; and

**WHEREAS**, the California State University Humboldt State Academic Senate passed Resolution 14-15/16, in February 2016, that supports AB 798; and “urges all faculty to explore ways to increase the use of high-quality, low or no cost, accessible instructional materials alternatives and consider participating in the Open Educational Resources (OER) and HSU Sustainable Learning Program; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the the HSU Library AL\$/AB798 Report to CSU 2017/2018, over the past 2 years, the switch to OER and more affordable classroom materials has saved HSU students over \$1 million and counting;

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD support Assembly Bill 798 (AB 798), Affordable Textbooks, the Activities of Affordable Learning Solutions (AL\$), and Senate Bill 1359 (SB 1359) Zero Cost Course Material (ZCCM) designation; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD of HSU support increasing individual faculty adoptions of zero-cost materials, increasing individual departmental adoptions, and the adoption of OER course designation in class listings; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD of HSU create a working group to develop awareness of AB789, OER, and the HSU Sustainable Learning Program; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD of HSU empower students with education and trainings on OERs, the HSU Sustainable Learning Program, ZCCM designations, and textbooks on reserve in the library; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD strongly urges Humboldt State Academic Senate renew their action plan for the implementation of the Open Educational Resources Adoption Fund, which should be created in collaboration with students and faculty, meet the requirements of AB 798, and be updated each academic year; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD strongly urges it become a priority of HSU and its Academic Affairs to continue to reduce the costs of textbooks and other course materials by pursuing, or continue to pursue, grant funding from the Open Educational Resources Adoption Incentive Fund as a means to acquire additional funds for open and affordable textbook options; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD strongly urges HSU and Academic Affairs provide workshops for faculty, especially during new faculty orientation, to learn about OER, applying for CSU Textbook Affordability grants, CSU Affordable Learning Solutions and Cool4Ed.org, and strategies to lower the cost of textbooks; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD strongly urges College Deans and Chairs encourage faculty to utilize OERs or other cost effective educational materials; and to look into applying for the HSU Sustainable Learning Program and OER grants; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD strongly urges Faculty update required readings within their syllabi with more cost effective alternatives such as older editions or OERs; and remove unused or rarely textbooks from their syllabi; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD strongly urges Faculty reassure in their syllabus that students may express concerns about textbook fees; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD strongly urges HSU to protect students from retaliation if they discuss textbook fees with their professors; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD strongly urges Faculty to attempt, with the help of HSU, to negotiate textbook prices with publishers when possible; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD strongly urges HSU to protect faculty from retaliation when attempting to negotiate textbook prices with publishers; and

**RESOLVED**, A.S. BoD strongly urges the Office of Register adopt the OER course designation during class registration to give students the opportunity to register for ZCCM courses,-as per SB 1359; and be it further,

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to, but not limited to President Rossbacher, Vice President of Student Affairs Wayne Brumfield, all of the College Deans, HSU College of Extended Education & Global Engagement, Cyril Oberlander, the HSU Library, the HSU Bookstore, the Faculty Development Working Group, the HSU Sustainable Learning Program, the Student Disability Resources Center, KRFH Radio Station, the Lumberjack Newspaper, El leñador Magazine, the Educational Opportunity Program, and CSSA.



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date



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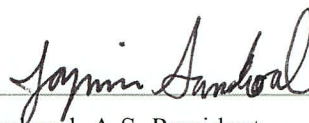
4/29/19

date



Paola Valdovinos, Chair

4/29/19  
date



Jazmin Sandoval, A.S. President

4/29/19  
date

## Sources

1. <http://www.studentpirgs.org/reports/sp/access-denied>
2. [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XxW4Pc7TuXduSb71\\_rbdZfJlzqgL0jtY](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XxW4Pc7TuXduSb71_rbdZfJlzqgL0jtY)
3. <http://library.humboldt.edu/about/sustainable.html>
  - a. Research provided by the 2016 Florida Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey. Studies by Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Student Public Interest Research Groups corroborate the findings.
4. HSU Library AL\$/AB798 Report to CSU 2017/2018