

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1169

TITLE: Resolution Advocating for the Implementation of the Federal Open Textbook Pilot Program at the University of Florida

AUTHOR(S): Senator Matthew Reich, Senator Ryan Harrell

SPONSORS: Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R.C. Marcelino

WHEREAS, as of 2022, the average college textbook costs an estimated \$105.37 [1]; and,

WHEREAS, one-quarter (25%) of students reported having to work extra hours to pay for their textbooks [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Open Textbook Pilot program aims to support projects at institutions of higher education that create and expand the use of open textbooks to achieve savings for students [3]; and,

WHEREAS, open textbooks are freely available, openly licensed materials that allow students and instructors to access, customize, and utilize textbooks without additional cost; and,

WHEREAS, research indicates that the use of open educational resources (OER), including open textbooks, can enhance student learning outcomes and reduce costs [4]; and,

WHEREAS, other universities implementing open textbook initiatives have reported significant cost savings for students, with some institutions saving students over \$20 million in cumulative textbook costs [5]; and,

WHEREAS, the integration of the Federal Open Textbook Pilot Program aligns with the University of Florida's mission of fostering academic excellence and removing barriers to higher education; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of open textbooks in reducing financial burdens on students and promoting a more equitable and inclusive educational environment.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the implementation of the Federal Open Textbook Pilot Program at the University of Florida to enable more students to access textbooks online, free of charge.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages all relevant parties, including faculty, administration, and students, to actively collaborate in the successful integration of the Federal Open Textbook Pilot Program, in accordance with the spirit of this resolution.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Interim Provost J. Scott Angle, University of Florida Board of Trustees, and Student Body President Olivia Green.

[1] <https://educationdata.org/average-cost-of-college-textbooks>

[2] <https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/average-cost-of-college-textbooks-statistics/>

[3] <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/otp/index.html>

[4] <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1184998>

[5] <https://www.oer-maryland.org/>