

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1167

TITLE: Turning the Page - Resolution Recognizing the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Badge and Affirming the University of Florida Student Government's Commitment to Academic Affordability

AUTHOR(S): Senator Zachary Wolsonovich

SPONSOR(S): Majority Party Leader Rafeh Khan, Judiciary Vice Chair Abigail Melamed, Deputy Majority Party Leader Marco Salvador, Senator Ava Avera, Senator Brooke Tuttle, Senator Julia Pascoe, Senator Cassie Urbenz, Senator Adam Herdman, Senator Aakash Badree

WHEREAS, the rising cost of course materials poses a significant burden to students, with the University of Florida Office of Student Financial Aid estimating an average annual cost of \$1,235–\$1,260 for books and supplies per undergraduate student [1]; and,

WHEREAS, a statewide survey of over 13,000 Florida students found that 53.5% of respondents had not purchased a required textbook, 43.7% took fewer courses, and 24.2% dropped a course due to textbook costs, demonstrating the academic impact of material affordability [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida's Center for Teaching Excellence, in partnership with the Office of the Provost, has launched the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) badge beginning Summer and Fall 2025, which marks course sections that require no additional cost for instructional materials beyond tuition and mandatory fees [3]; and,

WHEREAS, this badge empowers students to make informed decisions during course registration, encourages the use of Open Educational Resources (OER), and strengthens equity in access to learning materials [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the Center for Teaching Excellence has led efforts to educate faculty about affordable instructional design, leveraging OER, library-licensed content, and other low- or no-cost tools to reduce student financial burden [5]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Government remains committed to championing affordability through policy advocacy, campus partnerships, and student outreach that prioritize cost transparency and equitable access; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate commends the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Office of the Provost for their leadership in advancing textbook affordability and implementing the ZTC badge initiative.

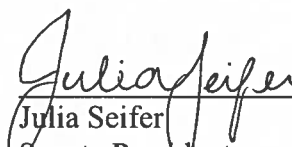
THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate affirms its commitment to working with the Office of the Registrar and relevant campus partners to integrate the ZTC badge into the One.UF course registration system, ensuring visibility for students at the point of enrollment.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate expresses its continued partnership with the Center for Teaching Excellence not only to promote awareness and expansion of the ZTC badge, but to collaborate on broader textbook affordability efforts, including the development of faculty resources, promotion of Open Educational Resources, and increased adoption of low- and no-cost instructional materials across campus.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate reaffirms its broader mission to support all affordability initiatives on campus, including timely textbook adoption, OER integration, and transparent communication of course material costs.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Mr. Ryan Rushing, Textbook Affordability Coordinator, University of Florida Center for Teaching Excellence.

- [1] <https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/cost/>
- [2] <https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Textbook-Survey-Report.pdf>
- [3] <https://teach.ufl.edu/textbook-affordability/affordable-uf-badge/>
- [4] <https://teach.ufl.edu/textbook-affordability>
- [5] <https://teach.ufl.edu>


Julia Seifer
Senate President

7/31/25
Date