



Associated Students of Foothill College & Academic Senate  
AB 798 College Textbook Affordability Resolution

WHEREAS, textbook costs have risen 1041 percent since 1977 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, outpacing the median wage increase two fold, according to the Social Security Wage Index,

WHEREAS, electronic courseware licensed at a cost to students does not meet Title 5 § 59400 requirements that such materials are of continuing value to a student outside of the classroom setting;

WHEREAS, open source textbook and courseware solutions reduce the cost to districts and students;

WHEREAS, reducing the overall cost of attendance may result in a growth in enrollment for Foothill College (FC) and allow for higher levels of student success by allowing students to spend more time studying and less time working to pay for expensive textbooks;

WHEREAS, by preventing the free distribution of course textbooks and software, copyright holders limit the extent to which students and schools may benefit from the aforementioned cost savings;

WHEREAS, the use of open source courseware curated by FC Faculty would result in high quality customizable course materials that would increase student success;

WHEREAS, AB 798 would authorize the local academic senate of a campus of the California Community Colleges to (A) adopt a local campus resolution to increase student access to high-quality Open Educational Resources (OERs) and reduce the cost of textbooks and supplies for students, and (B) upon adoption of the resolution, develop a specific plan, in collaboration with students and the administration, that describes evidence of the campus' commitment and readiness to spend an initial grant of up to \$50,000;

WHEREAS, OERs, when reviewed and selected by discipline faculty for their own courses, can in many cases offer appropriate low-cost alternatives to published textbooks for students; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges endorsed Resolution 6.05, (Spring 2015) with the intent of AB 798 to promote the consideration of appropriate open educational resources through funding that is dependent on the agreement of local academic senates.

RESOLVED, the Associated Students of Foothill College (ASFC) and Foothill Academic Senate encourage FC to obtain funds for promotion of OERs, training of faculty and staff and for curation activities through AB 798,

RESOLVED, the ASFC and Foothill Academic Senate encourage the College Administration to develop, with Foothill College faculty and ASFC representatives, through the Foothill Academic Senate, a specific plan of implementation that demonstrates its commitment to increase student access to high-quality OERs and its readiness to spend these funds to support faculty adoption of OERs funded through AB 798; and

RESOLVED, that the Foothill Academic Senate submit the plan of implementation along with this resolution to the California Open Educational Resources Council no later than June 30, 2016 as its application for an initial grant.

See:

<http://icas-ca.org/coerc>

<http://www.cool4red.org/>

<http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/>

<https://openstaxcollege.org/books>

<http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm>

<https://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm>

*Approved by the Associated Students of Foothill College on January 14, 2016.*