A Resolution in Support of Textbook Price Transparency

WHEREAS, the cost of college textbooks is often a major affordability issue for students, who take on additional loan debt to pay for textbooks;

WHEREAS, students often lack access to their full textbook lists until after course registration, sometimes not until their first day of class,

WHEREAS, faculty find that students may not acquire textbooks until after the add-drop deadline, negatively impacting their grades,

WHEREAS, faculty and students both share concerns about textbook affordability and its impact on student success;

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the US Congress[1] that students ought to have greater price transparency at class registration;

WHEREAS, university systems such as the Connecticut State College System[2], the California State University and Community College systems[3], and others have adopted such price transparency measures;

WHEREAS, an 'open textbook' is defined as an: online, free to access, easy to share, and affordable to print textbook written by education professionals under an open copyright;

WHEREAS, 'low-cost' is defined as: a course section whose textbooks, materials, lab fees, and other costs total to less than $50;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Associated Council recommends UCLA adopt disclosures in the course listing to indicate open and low-cost textbooks with a logo or some other clear indicator of its status.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Associated Council recommends UCLA make clearly visible in the course listing the price in dollars for materials, which may be presented directly in the course description or via a direct link to the college bookstore's records for that course section.

Resolution Passed April 2019.

---

[1] Higher Education Opportunity Act, 2008. https://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/leg/hea08/index.html.
[2] http://www.ct.edu/newsroom/no_or_low_cost_textbook_options_available_for_connecticut_community_college
[3] https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1359