SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
Executive Committee
May 9, 2016
Final Reading

Sense of the Senate Resolution

Supporting Efforts to Reduce Student Costs for Textbooks by
Encouraging the Use of High-Quality Open Educational Resource
Course Material

aims to encourage faculty to consider alternatives to high-cost textbooks
by adopting open educational resources (OER) of high quality that will
reduce student costs; and

Whereas AB 798 has created a financial and professional development incentive
program to facilitate faculty development, consideration, and integration of
high quality OER materials into their courses; and

Whereas The State legislature has recognized the role of the faculty and senates on
each campus to control all issues pertaining to curriculum, and

Whereas The SJSU Senate has been actively engaged over the last decade in
addressing issues pertaining to curricular and infrastructure developments
that benefit our students, as evidenced by SS-S06-5, “Improving Textbook
Affordability and Availability”; and

Whereas Support for the adoption of high-quality OER is not intended to prevent
faculty from continuing to publish in the venues of their choice or from
selecting course materials in the format pedagogically best suited for
instruction; and

Whereas AB 798 requires the support of each campus’ senates to be eligible for the
incentives; therefore be it

Resolved That the Academic Senate of San Jose State University affirms its support
of the principles of academic freedom and the right of faculty to manage
course material; and be it further

Resolved That controlling the rising costs of a college education in California is a
multi-faceted issue and the SJSU Academic Senate calls upon the
legislature to fund the CSU at adequate levels and that we continue to
advocate to restore the necessary state support for the CSU; and be it
further
Resolved That the SJSU Academic Senate calls upon book publishers and the
bookstore to commit to reducing student costs of textbooks; and be it
further

Resolved That the SJSU Academic Senate support faculty efforts to reduce student
costs of attending our university and that we recognize the many faculty
who have already committed the extraordinary time and effort needed to
substantively develop and integrate into their courses, in a responsible
manner, alternatives to high-cost materials; and be it further

Resolved That, while acknowledging that this is only one mechanism to control the
high cost of attending college, the Academic Senate supports the tenets of
AB 798 and directly quotes the required legislative language calling for
campuses to "increase student access to high-quality open educational
resources and reduce the cost of textbooks and supplies for students in
course sections for which open educational resources are to be adopted
to accomplish cost savings for students."

Approved: May 2, 2016
Vote: 7-2-6
Present: Kimbarow, Blaylock, Heiden, Peter, Mathur, Larochelle, Frazier,
Shifflett, Kaufman, Lee, Martin, Amante, Lanning, Backer, Feinstein
Absent: None

Curricular Impact: As with the adoption of any new course materials, course curricula
may need to be updated or changed to reflect faculty choices of
OER materials.

Financial Impact: If faculty choose OER materials for their courses, there will be
significant cost-savings for students.

Workload Impact: If faculty decide to use OER materials for their courses, they will
need to devote significant additional time to assessing the quality of
available materials, to revising their course activities and curricula,
and to participating in AB 798 grant-related professional
development activities. There will be additional workload for the
Affordable Solutions team on campus and the Center for Faculty
Development as they coordinate efforts across faculty and provide
support to faculty in searching for OER materials equal to, or higher
than, the quality of higher cost texts and course materials.
Workload will also increase for those engaged in the review of
proposals from faculty interested in this grant opportunity.