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6 **Sense of the Senate Resolution**

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

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12 **Whereas** Assembly Bill 798 (AB 798), “College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015”
13 aims to encourage faculty to consider alternatives to high-cost textbooks
14 by adopting open educational resources (OER) of high quality that will
15 reduce student costs; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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41 **Resolved** That controlling the rising costs of a college education in California is a
42 multi-faceted issue and the SJSU Academic Senate calls upon the
43 legislature to fund the CSU at adequate levels and that we continue to
44 advocate to restore the necessary state support for the CSU; and be it
45 further

47 Resolved That the SJSU Academic Senate calls upon book publishers and the
48 bookstore to commit to reducing student costs of textbooks; and be it
49 further
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51 Resolved That the SJSU Academic Senate support faculty efforts to reduce student
52 costs of attending our university and that we recognize the many faculty
53 who have already committed the extraordinary time and effort needed to
54 substantively develop and integrate into their courses, in a responsible
55 manner, alternatives to high-cost materials; and be it further
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57 Resolved That, while acknowledging that this is only one mechanism to control the
58 high cost of attending college, the Academic Senate supports the tenets of
59 AB 798 and directly quotes the required legislative language calling for
60 campuses to ““increase student access to high-quality open educational
61 resources and reduce the cost of textbooks and supplies for students in
62 course sections for which open educational resources are to be adopted
63 to accomplish cost savings for students.”
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66 Approved: May 2, 2016
67 Vote: 7-2-6
68 Present: Kimbarow, Blaylock, Heiden, Peter, Mathur, Larochele, Frazier,
69 Shifflett, Kaufman, Lee, Martin, Amante, Lanning, Backer, Feinstein
70 Absent: None
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72 Curricular Impact: As with the adoption of any new course materials, course curricula
73 may need to be updated or changed to reflect faculty choices of
74 OER materials.
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76 Financial Impact: If faculty choose OER materials for their courses, there will be
77 significant cost-savings for students.
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79 Workload Impact: If faculty decide to use OER materials for their courses, they will
80 need to devote significant additional time to assessing the quality of
81 available materials, to revising their course activities and curricula,
82 and to participating in AB 798 grant-related professional
83 development activities. There will be additional workload for the
84 Affordable Solutions team on campus and the Center for Faculty
85 Development as they coordinate efforts across faculty and provide
86 support to faculty in searching for OER materials equal to, or higher
87 than, the quality of higher cost texts and course materials.
88 Workload will also increase for those engaged in the review of
89 proposals from faculty interested in this grant opportunity.
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