



Associated Students of
Lewis & Clark College

Associated Students of Lewis & Clark

Senate Resolution Number SP19 SR002

A Resolution in Support of Textbook Affordability

Whereas, College Board estimates that the yearly cost of books-and-supplies for the average full-time, in-state undergraduate student at a four-year public college is about \$1,298,

Whereas, even cheaper versions of textbooks are incredibly expensive, with online textbooks costing \$126 on average, according to the New York Times,

Whereas, college textbook prices have risen 1,041% between 1977 and 2015 per the Bureau of Labor Statistics,

Whereas, five major publishers control 80% of the textbook publishing market, locking out competitors and minimizing the impacts of consumer choice,

Whereas, roughly 5.2 million United States undergraduate students use financial aid - money usually given for classes or room and board - to purchase their textbooks each year,

Whereas, college students across the country are under enormous financial pressure that causes them to forgo basic necessities: 36% of college students report being food-insecure and/or housing-insecure,

Whereas, 65% of American undergraduate students report that they have skipped buying a textbook for their course because it was too expensive, and the L&C student body is no exception,

Whereas, textbooks are almost always a vital part of success in undergraduate coursework, with 94% of students surveyed who decided against buying a textbook due to cost reported being either somewhat concerned or significantly concerned that doing so would hurt their grade,

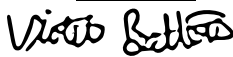
Whereas, nearly half of students surveyed reported that textbook costs affected which courses they took and how many they enrolled in each term,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the Associated Students here assembled that ASLC stands with students for whom textbooks pose a financial hardship,

Be it further resolved by the Senate of the Associated Students here assembled that ASLC supports and will pursue measures to increase accessibility and affordability of textbooks for L&C undergraduate students including but not limited to:

Introduced on February 28, 2019 by Senator Alex Webb '22, Senator Nick Gothard '22, Senator Ben Seiple '21, and FSU Representative Caroline Arnis '22

Adopted on 02/28/2019

Signed on 03/04/2019 by 



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- a. Providing a textbook subsidy to students with significant financial need
- b. Promoting third-party scholarships that can be used for purchasing textbooks
- c. Discussion with academic departments and curriculum planners about minimizing textbook costs and encouraging the use of open textbooks

Be it further resolved by the Senate of the Associated Students here assembled that ASLC strongly encourages the Lewis & Clark College administration and academic departments to support and pursue measures to increase accessibility and affordability of textbooks for L&C students whenever possible, including but not limited to the measures outlined in this resolution

This document shall be submitted to President Wim Wiewel, Dean Bruce Suttmeier, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Robin Holmes-Sullivan, The Lewis & Clark College Curriculum Committee, The Lewis & Clark Bookstore

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