

The United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau Campus

Second Reading

Resolution 1617 — 09

Expanding UAS Alt-Textbook Library

Sponsored by: Senator O'Donnell

Date of introduction: March 31, 2017

Purpose: To expand the availability of UAS open-textbook library.

Whereas: The USUAS-JC is concerned with rising tuition costs forcing students to look for ways to reduce their educational costs;

Whereas: the USUAS-JC is aware of departments, such as the math department, making textbooks for certain classes free for students on their own initiative;

Whereas: Open textbooks remove a financial barrier for many students, and studies have shown that the more available resources are for a class, the more likely a student will put in work for that class;

Whereas: the USUAS-JC recognizes that potential incoming students may have an incentive to apply to a university with low-cost or no-cost resources;

Whereas: The cost of textbooks have increased by 88% over the past twenty years (four times the rate of inflation). During that same time college tuition and fees have increased by 63%¹

¹ PIRG report "Access Denied"

Whereas: The USUAS-JC recognizes that students nationwide report taking out more student loans to cover the cost of class materials²;

Whereas: According to the 2016 UAS Teaching and Learning Resources survey, it was found that the cost of textbooks is the fourth factor that UAS faculty consider when choosing a textbook for a course;

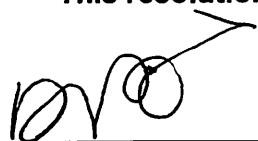
Whereas: the survey further found that of the 34 faculty members who took the survey, 57% have never used open educational resources (OERs) but will consider using OERs in the next 3 years, 39% of teachers have used OERs as supplementary course material (occasionally or regularly), and 18% have used OERs as primary course material (occasionally or regularly);

Be it enacted that: USUAS-JC supports the expansion of an alternative textbook library on campus in order to facilitate innovative higher learning;

Be it further enacted that: this library will be utilized by faculty with affordability for students in mind;

Be it further enacted that: this resolution will be sent to UAS Faculty Senate, UAS Egan Library, and any other relevant groups.

This resolution was passed on: April 14, 2017



David Russell-Jensen, President

² <http://www.studentpirgs.org/reports/sp/access-denied>