

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Pre-filed Resolution

RS.19.06 Resolution in Support of Academic Affordability

WHEREAS, academic affordability is a goal of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, both at an Administration and Senate level; and,

WHEREAS, the average college student spends over \$1200 on classroom materials costs, such as textbooks, access codes, workbooks, printing, art supplies, field trips, and more¹; and

WHEREAS, other universities have initiated task forces on this issue, which affects students across the country²; and,

WHEREAS, a number of measures can be taken to address this issue without increasing costs for the various colleges and departments, while not compromising the quality of education provided; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as a preeminent university, should be a recognized leader on this issue; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign encourages the University's constituent colleges and departments to implement all appropriate measures that would reduce the classroom material costs for students; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign encourages the Provost to create a task force on the issue of rising classroom materials costs, focusing on developing, detailing, and implementing specific objectives such as

- Working with the University Bookstore to increase the buyback prices of textbooks, so that students receive a majority of the original cost as opposed to a small percentage
- Working with the various colleges and departments to encourage faculty to use textbooks for which the University already possesses an ebook license, which are made available for free to students
- University investment in open-source in-house online educational platforms, such as RELATE and PrairieLearn, which could be made available to a variety of classes across the University requiring online homework submissions, thereby saving students money on homework access codes and giving the University greater control over its educational experience

¹ https://learn.org/articles/How_Much_Do_College_Supplies_Cost_for_a_Typical_Student.html

² <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/1010/2016/05/Course-Materials-Cost-Reduction-Task-Force-memo-to-President.pdf>

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