

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

Bill Number: Senate Resolution #2023-03
Title: In Support of Equitable Textbook Access & CSULB Affordable Learning Solutions
Sponsored by: Executive Vice President Teresa Falcon
Co-Sponsored by: Vice President of Finance Alvin Tu and President Mitali Jain
Date Submitted: September 22, 2023
Date Approved: October 11, 2023

WHEREAS the Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) Senate is the representative body on behalf of students at California State University, Long Beach; and,

WHEREAS the CSULB Beach Shops Incorporated mission is to support the educational process at CSULB through goods and services including textbooks and learning materials that “promote a learning community”¹; and

WHEREAS the total cost of attendance for California residents enrolled in CSULB Undergraduate programs in the 2023-2024 academic year is \$22,344 for commuters, \$28,482 for on-campus students, and \$31,678 for off-campus students²; and

WHEREAS the total cost of attendance for out of state residents enrolled in CSULB Undergraduate programs in the 2023-2024 academic year is \$32,640 for commuters, \$35,348 for on-campus students and \$41,974 for off-campus students³; and

WHEREAS the total cost of attendance for California residents enrolled in CSULB Standard Graduate Programs for the 2023-2024 academic year is \$23,868 for commuters, \$30,006 for on-campus students and \$33,202 for off-campus students⁴; and

WHEREAS the total cost of attendance for out of state residents enrolled in a CSULB Standard Graduate Program for the 2023-2024 academic year is \$30,996 for commuters, \$37,134 for on-campus students and \$40,330 for off-campus students⁵; and

WHEREAS the average college student California spent approximately \$938 in 2021-2022 on textbooks and course materials⁶;

WHEREAS CSULB has been a leader in adopting lower cost course material alternatives within the California State University Affordable Learning Solutions program, including most recently the 2019 adoption of the Day One Digital Access (D1DA) program that allows students free, digital access to required course materials during the first week of classes through

¹ <https://www.csulb.edu/49er-shops-at-the-beach/mission>

² <https://www.csulb.edu/financial-aid/undergraduate-costs>

³ <https://www.csulb.edu/financial-aid/undergraduate-costs>

⁴ <https://www.csulb.edu/financial-aid/graduate-student-costs>

⁵ <https://www.csulb.edu/financial-aid/graduate-student-costs>

⁶ <https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files>

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

the online CSULB Learning Management System, formerly BeachBoard and now Canvas, which students may keep access to after the first add/drop deadline which results in a charge to their CSULB Student Center Account⁷; and

WHEREAS in 2020 the ASI Senate unanimously approved Senate Resolution (SR) #2020-25 "Support of Day 1 Digital Access and Other Cost-Effective Resources" which encouraged faculty adoptions of digital course materials; and

WHEREAS as of the fall 2023 semester, 43% of all course sections are utilizing the D1DA program, drastically reducing the price of textbooks for students; and

WHEREAS in order to reduce inequity among students by eliminating course material access issues while ensuring that costs are predictable and equal for all students, regardless of socioeconomic status (https://ucdavisstores.com/EquitableAccess#annual_report), colleges and universities are implementing Equitable Access textbook programs; and

WHEREAS textbook costs are included in the total cost of attendance calculations, are covered by financial aid, and will be further subsidized by a new textbook scholarship program administered by the Beach Shops Bookstore; and

WHEREAS unlike other university fees, students have the option to opt out of Equitable Textbook Access for any reason; and

WHEREAS California innovator, U.C. Davis is in their third year of implementing Equitable Access. 69% of the undergraduate students participated in E.A. in 2021-2022. The cost to each student per term has been renegotiated from \$199 to \$169 due to the increase in volume participation. A single price-point model for all students is based on other required fees for programs such as health insurance, tuition, associated student organizations, parking, etc. that do not change based on majors. The goal is to equalize the cost of materials to the benefit of all students. In 2022 San Diego State University implemented Equitable Access, and in 2023 Cal Poly Pomona implemented Equitable Access; and

WHEREAS Starting in Fall 2024, in order to advance affordability, accessibility, predictability, and sustainability of textbooks at CSULB, the Equitable Textbook Access program will begin in fall 2024 and offer instant access to all required textbooks for an estimated flat rate of \$165 per semester part-time students and \$250 per semester for full-time students, allowing them to opt-out of the program by the add/drop date for any reason; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the Associated Students Inc. Senate and Board of Directors supports the implementation of Equitable Textbook Access and the evolution of textbook affordability at CSULB; and be it further

⁷ <https://www.csulb.edu/49er-shops-at-the-beach/day-1-digital-access>

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**



- RESOLVED** the Senate recommends that the Equitable Textbook Access Program automatically opts out students registered for courses with no required materials; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the Senate urges the Equitable Textbook Access Program to preserve the academic freedom of faculty to choose the textbooks required in the classes they instruct; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that CSULB ASI urges the Academic Senate to encourage faculty members and lecturers of all colleges, departments, and majors to utilize Equitable Textbook Access Program and other cost-effective resources; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the Senate urges the Bookstore to utilize the extra revenue from the program to award grants and scholarships; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that electronic copies of this resolution be distributed California State University, Long Beach President Jane Close Conoley, Vice President for Student Affairs Beth Lesen, Provost Karyn Scissum Gunn, Vice President of Administration and Finance Scott Apel, and Chair of the Academic Senate Pei-Fang Hung.

Teresa Falcon
Teresa Falcon, Executive Vice President & Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on: | <u>11/1/2023</u> |
| <u>Mitali Jain</u> | <u>Date</u> |
| Mitali Jain, Associated Students President | <u>11/1/2023</u> |
| | <u>Date</u> |

###