

Adopted: May 16, 2006

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
of  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
San Luis Obispo, CA**

**AS-646-06**

**RESOLUTION ON  
TEXTBOOK PRICING**

WHEREAS, The Associated Students, Inc of Cal Poly (ASI) has expressed its concern regarding the rapid rise in textbook pricing by recently approving a resolution addressing this matter; and

WHEREAS, The Academic Senate of Cal Poly has supported the principles set forth in the ASI resolution; and

WHEREAS, The complexity of textbook pricing necessitates a comprehensive study of the issues and a search for solutions; and

WHEREAS, The Academic Senate of Cal Poly recognizes that the high cost of certain textbooks and coursepacks can adversely affect the affordability of higher education for its students; and

WHEREAS, The Academic Senate of Cal Poly and the University must protect the academic freedom of faculty in assigning textbooks and other course materials while recognizing the negative impact high textbook prices has on its students; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly will establish a task force to work with Information Technology Services (ITS), Cal Poly Corporation and/or El Corral Bookstore, and Associated Students Inc. (ASI) to look into the feasibility of developing a central publicly accessible website which will provide information about textbook requirements and alternative formats and pricing of textbooks for Cal Poly courses.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Faculty Mfairs Committee  
Date: January 31, 2006  
Revised: February 28, 2006  
Revised: May 16, 2006

Adopted: March 8, 2005

ACADEMIC SENATE  
of  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
San Luis Obispo, CA

AS-630-05

RESOLUTION ON  
TEXTBOOK PRICING

- 1 WHEREAS, Current textbook prices are of concern to faculty and students; and
- 2
- 3 WHEREAS, The Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) of Cal Poly has passed a resolution on
- 4 textbook pricing; therefore be it
- 5
- 6 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly recognize the students' concerns contained in ASI
- 7 Resolution #05-06 entitled *Support for Campus Leadership in Textbook Price Reduction*
- 8 (attached); and be it further
- 9
- 10 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly endorse the principles contained in ASI Resolution
- 11 05-06; and be it further
- 12
- 13 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly urge department chairs and heads to promote timely
- 14 submission of textbook orders by their faculty; and be it further
- 15
- 16 RESOLVED: That department chairs, heads and deans be encouraged to make teaching assignments as
- 17 early as possible so faculty can order textbooks in a timely manner; and be it further
- 18
- 19 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly follow up on other aspects of textbook, and other
- 20 textbook materials, pricing by holding meetings of the Faculty Affairs Committee with
- 21 representatives of El Corral Bookstore, campus textbook authors, students, representatives
- 22 of publishing companies, and other knowledgeable parties, with the intent of writing a
- 23 further resolution on this issue; and be it further
- 24
- 25 RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be sent to academic department chairs, department heads,
- 26 and deans.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Executive Committee  
Date: February 15, 2005  
Revised: March 7, 2005  
Revised: March 8, 2005

Associated Students, Inc.  
California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo

Resolution #05-06

**Support for Campus Leadership in Textbook Price Reduction**

- Whereas: ASI is the official voice of the Cal Poly student body, and
- Whereas: According to a survey by the California Student Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) students spent an average of \$898 per year on textbooks in the 2003-04 school year, or almost 20% of the cost of in-state fees; and
- Whereas: According to the same survey a new textbook costs \$102.44 on average, 58% more expensive than the price of an average used textbook, \$64.80; and
- Whereas: Notices are issued to every faculty member requesting which textbooks will be required the following quarter; and
- Whereas: According to El Corral Bookstore only 15-20% of faculty respond back to these notices before the deadline causing buyback prices to be severely reduced, and
- Whereas: Textbooks often come with bundled supplemental course materials that significantly increase the overall cost of textbooks to students, and
- Whereas: CALPIRG reported that 65% of faculty "rarely" or "never" use the bundled materials in their courses; and
- Whereas: Faculty and El Corral Bookstore have power to reduce the cost of textbooks to students at Cal Poly.

Therefore

Be it resolved: Faculty are encouraged to respond to textbook requisitions in a timely manner so the bookstore can buyback used books at a higher price and make the used editions available for purchase, and

Furthenmore

Be it resolved: ASI encourages El Corral Bookstore to use all means possible to educate students about available discounts options for purchasing textbooks, and

Furthenmore

Be it resolved: ASI encourages El Corral Bookstore to use all means possible to ensure that all students receive the fairest prices on new and used textbooks, and

State of California

**Memorandum**

**CALPOLY**

SAN LUIS OBISPO  
CA 93407

To: David Hannings  
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: June 19, 2006

From: Warren J. Baker  
President

Copies: R. Detweiler, D. Conn,  
T. Kearns, F. Mumford,  
T. Maki

Subject: Response to Senate Resolution AS-646-06-Resolution on Textbook Pricing

---

This memo formally acknowledges receipt and approval of the above-referenced Academic Senate resolution.

Please express my appreciation to the Academic Senate and the ASI for their work on this issue.