



## LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTS

REPRESENTING OVER 195,000 STUDENTS STATEWIDE

### Textbook Affordability Resolution *Improving College Access*

**WHEREAS**, we, the elected student body leaders of Louisiana's postsecondary education institutions, comprise the Council of Student Body Presidents, representing over one hundred ninety-five thousand (195,000) students; and

**WHEREAS**, the rising cost of textbooks has become a legitimate concern of students of all postsecondary public institutions state- and nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the July 2005 study by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (*College Textbooks: Enhanced Offerings Appear to Drive Recent Price Increases*), the average cost of books and supplies, per first time, full time student at four-year institutions, represents nearly thirty percent [30%] of tuition and fees, and seventy-six percent [76%] for students at two-year institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a fall 2006 survey by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, seventy-one percent (71%) of faculty surveyed stated that updating to new edition textbooks, which creates new expenses for students each year, is only justified 'half the time' or less; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Producer Price Index, the cost of textbooks has risen at four times the rate of inflation rate for all finished goods since 1994; and

**WHEREAS**, the rising costs of textbooks also stems from supplemental materials that are bundled with required textbooks, which are often unused or unneeded; and

**WHEREAS**, according to May 2007 data from the Legislative Fiscal Office of the State of Louisiana (LFO), annual textbook costs average nine hundred ninety-eight dollars (\$998) per student; and

**WHEREAS**, this rising cost inhibits access to higher education by students from low-income families; and

**WHEREAS**, the rising cost of textbooks has increased the demand placed on the resources of state and federal governments, and colleges and universities as they strive to adequately distribute need- and merit-based financial aid; and


**WHEREAS**, the May 2007 Congressional Report by the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance (*Turn the Page: Making College Textbooks More Affordable*), supports the initiatives by thirty-four (34) states nationwide that have successfully implemented institutional policies and legislation to protect students from these rising costs;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Council of Student Body Presidents, urge and request that the Legislature of the State of Louisiana enact a resolution to charge the Louisiana Board of Regents to diligently investigate the impact of rising textbook costs on Louisiana's postsecondary education students.


**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urge and request the Louisiana Board of Regents to collaborate with the Louisiana State University System, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, Southern University System, University of Louisiana System, and the Council of Student Body Presidents to jointly propose short- and long-term solutions to the Legislature of the State of Louisiana in a timely manner.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we, the Council of Student Body Presidents, respectfully encourage our State Legislature to utilize the recommendations from Louisiana's higher education community to establish policies to significantly reduce the cost of textbooks for Louisiana's postsecondary education students.

Author

  
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