

# **Associated Student Government of College of the Canyons**

## **A Resolution in Support of Open Textbooks**

**Adopted unanimously March 30, 2016**

WHEREAS, research conducted by the College Board has found that the average student should budget more than \$1200 per year for books and supplies; and

WHEREAS, the price of textbooks rose at three times the rate of inflation between 2002 and 2016 according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office; and

WHEREAS, the cost of college textbooks is a prominent affordability issue for students who take on additional loan debt to pay for textbooks, or, undercut their own learning by forgoing the purchase of textbooks; and

WHEREAS, textbook publishers have not responded adequately to the concerns of students, faculty, and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, an 'open textbook' is defined as "a textbook written by education professionals and released online under an open license permitting everyone to freely use, print, share and adapt the material;" and

WHEREAS, open textbooks offer an affordable, comparable and flexible alternative to expensive, commercial textbooks; and

WHEREAS, it is the prerogative of faculty to select the course materials that are most appropriate for a class; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to seek and consider low-and no-cost options, including open textbooks, as long as there is no reduction in educational quality; and

WHEREAS, students have a concern about textbook affordability and its impact on student success; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the College of the Canyons Associated Student Government supports the use of open educational resources, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the College of the Canyons Associated Student Government advocates for the development and adoption of open educational resources as being in the best interest of the students, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the College of the Canyons Associated Student Government encourages faculty to consider open educational resources when academically appropriate;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the College of the Canyons Associated Student Government recommends to the California legislature and California representatives in Congress to support and fund open textbooks as a solution to high textbook costs.