Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

A Funding Bill to Support Open Education Resources at the University of Arkansas

Whereas, Each year, undergraduate students spend on average $1,200 on textbooks and educational resources. Students must purchase expensive textbooks that they will use for one semester then never use again.

Whereas, The University of Arkansas has created the Open Education Department through the university libraries to combat high textbook costs for students. The Associated Student Government has been a champion in this effort to save students money. The current department is underfunded and cannot meet the demand of new OER projects.

Whereas, Open Education Resources have created large savings for the students thus far. OER efforts from previous years has resulted in 4494 students using OER between 21 courses. University of Arkansas students have saved over $449,000 in textbook costs during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Be it therefore resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate should allocate $24,400 from the Registered Student Organization Budget and $8,755 from the Senate Allocations Budget towards funding the general account of the Open Education Resources Department. The total allocated funding will be equal to $33,155; and

Be it further resolved: The funding provided to the Open Education Resources Department will be used at their discretion towards continuing projects related to the projects of the Open Education Resources Department. The funding will allow for all Spring 2021 Open Education Resource projects to be funded.
Be it further resolved: All excess funds will be reallocated back to the Registered Student Organization Allocations Budget.

Be it finally resolved: A copy of this bill be sent to Elaine Thorton, Librarian of Education and Lynda Coon, Interim Dean of Libraries.

Official Use Only

Amendments: ____________________________

Vote Count: Aye ___35____ Nay ___0____ Abstentions ___4____

Legislation Status: Passed ___X____ Failed ______ Other ______

Caleb Parker, ASG Chair of the Senate

Julia Nall, ASG President

4/21/2021 Date

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