**Associated Student Government**

*University of Arkansas*

*ASG Joint Resolution No. 3*

Author(s): Treasurer Shelby Cormack, Senator Spencer Bone

Sponsor(s): President Connor Flocks, Directors of Academics Jacob Stansell and Katie Hicks, Academics Chair Courtney Brooks, GSC Speaker Scout Johnson, Senator Ben Blaske

**A Joint Resolution Supporting the Investigation, Implementation, and Creation of Open Educational Resources at the University of Arkansas**

Whereas, the cost of textbooks has increased (87%) between 2003 and 2013; and

Whereas, this phenomenon has made acquisition of textbooks a prohibitive barrier to a substantial number (65%) of students; and

Whereas, Open Educational Resources (OERs) are textbooks and learning materials distributed online that gives free accessibility to every student and allows students to modify, change and share content; and ~~to suit their own need; and~~

Whereas,  Using open educational resources in place of traditional materials in large-enrollment college courses can reduce textbook costs by 80 to 100 percent[[1]](#footnote-1); and

Whereas: one study found that nearly three quarters (73.4%) of faculty consider the quality of Open Educational Resources to be the same as or better than that of traditionally published resources; and

Whereas: more than 950 universities, including Texas A&M, Georgia, and Mississippi State, have adopted OpenStax College textbooks, a provider of Open Educational Resources; and

Whereas, OpenStax College textbooks have saved students more than $30 million; and

Whereas, utilizing Open Educational Resources have been shown to increase student pass rates, increase grades, and reduce withdrawal rates.

Be it therefore resolved: that the benefits of Open Educational Resources be investigated at the University of Arkansas; and

Be it further resolved, ASG openly encourages and supports the adoption, creation, and implementation of Open Educational Resources by the faculty, staff, graduate assistants, and teaching assistants.

*Official Use Only*

Amendments:

Vote Count: Aye \_ Nay \_ Abstentions

Legislation Status: Passed Failed \_ Other

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Will Watkins, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

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Scout Johnson, ASG Speaker of the Date

Graduate Student Congress

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Connor Flocks, ASG President Date

1. Affordable College Textbook Act, S. 1704, 113 Cong. (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)