



RUSA Resolution: S171802

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Sponsor: Executive Board

### **Resolution for RUSA to Support the Open and Affordable Textbooks Project**

*Whereas*, nearly one-third of New Jersey undergraduate students who receive financial aid said that they had to use their financial aid to pay for textbooks, costing about 311 dollars per semester on average; and <sup>[1]</sup>

*Whereas*, textbook prices have risen 73 percent since 2006, which is 4 times the rate of inflation; and <sup>[1]</sup>

*Whereas*, the average Rutgers student spends over 1,500 dollars on textbooks each year (300 dollars per year greater than the national average); and <sup>[2]</sup>

*Whereas*, nearly 50 percent of all students said that the cost of textbooks influenced which classes or how many classes they take each semester; and <sup>[3]</sup>

*Whereas*, 82 percent of students felt they would do significantly better in a course if the textbook were available free online and buying a hard copy were optional. <sup>[3]</sup>

*Whereas*, the Open and Affordable Textbooks Project by Rutgers University Libraries offers \$1,000 grants to Rutgers faculty and instructors across the system who choose to adopt, remix, or create a free or low cost textbook, as an alternative to traditional course materials. <sup>[4]</sup>

*Be it hereby resolved*, the Rutgers University Student Assembly endorses the Open and Affordable Textbooks Project; and

*Be it hereby further resolved*, the Rutgers University Student Assembly supports the expansion of the Open and Affordable Textbooks Project to permit more grantees and the launch of additional Open Educational Resource initiatives to supplement this grant program.

<sup>[1]</sup> <http://njpirgstudents.org/updates-and-reports/covering-the-cost>

<sup>[2]</sup> <http://njpirgstudents.org/updates-and-reports/access-denied>

<sup>[3]</sup> <http://njpirgstudents.org/updates-and-reports/fixing-the-broken-textbook-market>

<sup>[4]</sup> <http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/open-textbooks>