

2018/19 – 6R

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Sponsor(s):

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES

- [1] **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
- [2] **WHEREAS**, ‘open educational resources’ is defined as: freely and publicly available teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purpose by others. These include open textbooks and other types of openly licensed materials for course use; and
- [3] **WHEREAS**, open textbooks offer an affordable, comparable, and flexible alternative to expensive, commercial textbooks; and
- [4] **WHEREAS**, it is the prerogative of faculty to select course materials that are most appropriate for a class; and
- [5] **WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to seek and consider open textbooks and other open educational resources, as long as there is no reduction in educational quality; and
- [6] **WHEREAS**, faculty and students both share a concern about textbook affordability and its impact on student success; and
- [7] **WHEREAS**, according to the [Consumer Price Index](#), the price of textbooks rose at least three times the rate of inflation between 2006 and 2016; and
- [8] **WHEREAS**, the cost of college textbooks is often a major affordability issue for students who take on additional debt to pay for textbooks or undercut their own learning by forgoing the purchase of textbooks;
- [9] **WHEREAS**, the [College Board](#) places the annual cost of books and supplies at \$1,250 with individual books costing upwards of \$300; and



- [10] **WHEREAS**, the [Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid](#) estimated the cost of attendance for the 2018-2019 school year for books and learning materials to be \$1,150; and
- [11] **WHEREAS**, the rising costs of higher education place an immense financial burden on students with 52.5% of Virginia Tech 4-year bachelor's degree graduates had a median debt of \$25,500 at the time of graduation ([2012-13 to 2016-17](#)); and
- [12] **WHEREAS**, although students can keep their hard copy texts or e-books, studies show at least 55% will sell back their books after the term is over and at least 66% have opted out of buying at least one textbook due to cost at some point in their academic careers ([Meyer, 2016](#)); and
- [13] **WHEREAS**, [Hilton \(2016\)](#) reviewed studies on open education resources with the focus on cost, outcomes, and perceptions and found that most of the studies (e.g. Fischer, Hilton, Robinson, & Wiley, 2015; Lovett, Meyer, & Thille, 2008; Petrides, Jimes, Middleton-Detzner, Walling, & Wiess, 2011) had found that open education resources improves student learning while significantly reducing the cost of their educational resources (e.g. textbooks).
- [14] **WHEREAS**, Virginia General Assembly passed HB 454 (2018) (Appendix B) that requires the governing board of each public institution of higher education to develop guidelines for the adoption and use of open educational resources in courses offered at such institution; and
- [15] **WHEREAS**, the [Virginia Tech Board of Visitors](#) passed a resolution to revise university policies regarding textbooks and create guidelines for open educational resources; and
- [16] **WHEREAS**, the following ACC schools have adopted some form of open education initiatives to help combat the rising textbook costs: Boston College, Clemson University, Duke University, Georgia Tech, Florida State University, North Carolina State University, Syracuse University, University of Miami, University of North Carolina, and University of Pittsburg;
- [17] **WHEREAS**, the student governments in following Virginia universities and higher learning institutions have pledged their support and are advocating for Open Education: Bridgewater College, George Mason University, Northern Virginia Community College,



Tidewater Community College, Virginia Commonwealth University, and William and Mary; now


- [18] **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Student Government Association (SGA) supports the use of open textbooks; and
- [19] **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that SGA encourages faculty to consider open textbooks and other low-cost openly licensed materials when selecting textbooks; and
- [20] **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that SGA calls upon the University Administration to expand on current grants and other incentives such as recognition or credit for promotion and tenure to reward faculty members who use, customize, create, and freely and publicly share open education resources and open textbooks; and
- [21] **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** that SGA encourages the University to offer greater support to faculty consider, adopt, adapt, create, and freely and publicly share open textbooks and open education resources when academically appropriate.



Chair of the General Assembly

4-23-19

Date



President of Student Government Association

5-1-19

Date



Appendix A

<https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/college-tuition-and-fees-increase-63-percent-since-january-2006.htm>

<https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/average-estimated-undergraduate-budgets-2018-19>

<https://finaid.vt.edu/undergraduate/coa.html>

<https://www.collegefactual.com/colleges/virginia-polytechnic-institute-and-state-university/paying-for-college/student-loan-debt/>

<https://campustechnology.com/articles/2016/08/24/report-students-shun-new-textbooks-to-reduce-education-expenses.aspx>

<https://bov.vt.edu/assets/-june-3-4-2018-meeting-posting.pdf>

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11423-016-9434-9>



Appendix B

CHAPTER 752

An Act to amend and reenact § [23.1-1308](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to public institutions of higher education; governing boards; open educational resources.

[H 454]

Approved April 4, 2018

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § [23.1-1308](#) of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ [23.1-1308](#). Governing board procedures; textbook sales and bookstores; open educational resources.

A. No employee of a public institution of higher education shall demand or receive any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, services, or anything, present or promised, as an inducement for requiring students to purchase a specific textbook required for coursework or instruction. However, such employee may receive (i) sample copies, instructor's copies, or instructional material not to be sold and (ii) royalties or other compensation from sales of textbooks that include such instructor's own writing or work.

B. The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall implement procedures for making available to students in a central location and in a standard format on the relevant institutional website listings of textbooks required or assigned for particular courses at the institution. The lists of those required or assigned textbooks for each particular course shall include the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) along with other relevant information.

C. Public institutions of higher education maintaining a bookstore supported by auxiliary services or operated by a private contractor shall post the listing of such textbooks when the relevant instructor or academic department identifies the required textbooks for order and subsequent student purchase.

D. The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall implement policies, procedures, and guidelines that encourage efforts to minimize the cost of textbooks for students while maintaining the quality of education and academic freedom. The guidelines shall ensure that:

1. Faculty textbook adoptions are made with sufficient lead time to university-managed or contract-managed bookstores so as to confirm availability of the requested materials and, when possible, ensure maximum availability of used textbooks;

2. In the textbook adoption process, the intent to use all items ordered, particularly each individual item sold as part of a bundled package, is affirmatively confirmed by the faculty member before the adoption is finalized. If the faculty member does not intend to use each item in the bundled package, he shall notify the bookstore, and the bookstore shall order the individualized items when their procurement is cost effective for both the institution and students and such items are made available by the publisher;



3. Faculty members affirmatively acknowledge the bookstore's quoted retail price of textbooks selected for use in each course;
 4. Faculty members are encouraged to limit their use of new edition textbooks when previous editions do not significantly differ in a substantive way as determined by the appropriate faculty member; and
 5. Provisions address the availability of required textbooks to students otherwise unable to afford the cost.
- E. The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall implement guidelines for the adoption and use of low-cost and no-cost open educational resources in courses offered at such institution. Such guidelines may include provisions for low-cost commercially published materials.*
- F. No funds provided for financial aid from university bookstore revenue shall be counted in the calculation for state appropriations for student financial aid.*



Appendix C

RESOLUTION TO REVISE UNIVERSITY POLICES REGARDING TEXTBOOKS AND CREATE GUIDELINES FOR OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES TO COMPLY WITH AMENDED CODE OF VIRGINIA §23.1-1308

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has policies and procedures regarding the procurement and use of textbooks in accordance with both the federal Higher Education Authorization Act, Public Law 110-135 (HEOA 2008), and the Code of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, effective July 1, 2018 the Code of Virginia §23.1-1308 (attached) directs the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors to amend and/or implement, as appropriate, policies, procedures, and guidelines addressing the use and procurement of textbooks, and open educational resources; and **WHEREAS**, the university's current policies and procedures provide direction for the use and procurement of textbooks, and

WHEREAS, college and University Libraries faculty members have taken the initiative to be leaders in the production of open educational resources; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, effective July 1, 2018 and in accordance with Code of Virginia §23.1-1308 the Board of Visitors reaffirms the university's policies and procedures regarding textbook sales and bookstores and directs the university's administration to revise and amend, as necessary, the policies and procedures associated with textbook sales and bookstores, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as outlined in Code of Virginia §23.1-1308, the Board of Visitors directs the university administration to "implement guidelines for the adoption and use of low-cost and no-cost open educational resources in courses offered...[including] provision for low-cost commercially published materials."

