Resolution 2021-S1-1100

Supplemental Funding for the *Open Textbooks Initiative*

The Undergraduate Student Government
Legislative Body
First Reading: February 8th, 2021
Second Reading/Voting: February 15th, 2021

Chief Sponsor(s): President Wasan Kumar,

WHEREAS, Textbooks are one of the largest out-of-pocket costs for college students and can serve as a barrier to success for those who struggle to afford required materials. The price of college textbooks has increased 1000% over the past 40 years. In a study by the University of North Dakota, over half of survey respondents skipped buying an access code or other course materials, indicating they could not afford to complete their homework.¹ Open textbooks allow students to use quality materials and enroll in courses for no cost on top of tuition; then

WHEREAS, at UIC, the Open Textbook Faculty Incentive Program provides awards to faculty members who demonstrate a commitment and plan to using open textbooks and other open-sourced educational materials. In AY 2020, this initiative awarded grants to 6 professors from a pool of $20,000. These professors taught over 750 students, and saved students an estimated $154,000 in textbook costs.² Applicants can submit proposals at one of three tiers: 1) $500-$1000 to adopting existing open textbooks, 2) $2000 for modifying open textbooks/education materials to fit their courses 3) $6000 to create new openly licensed textbooks.³ Faculty work closely with the UIC Library OER (Open Education Resources) throughout the process of adopting open textbooks and education resources; then

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that USG offers $10,000 in funding to support the UIC Open Textbook Faculty Incentive Program. We intend for these funds to provide additional grants to faculty through the current Open Textbook Faculty Incentive Program, and leave the funds at the discretion of Librarian Dr. Janet Swatscheno.

President,
Wasan Kumar

Speaker of the House,
Daisy Stancheva

² https://today.uic.edu/open-textbook-faculty-incentive-program-application-window-re-open
³ https://researchguides.uic.edu/opentextbooks/incentiveprogram