



**Whereas**, textbooks are an integral part of students' academic success;

**Whereas**, textbook costs can cause a financial burden that discriminates against students based on socioeconomic status;

**Whereas**, textbooks at UW-Madison can cost up to \$1,200 per semester<sup>1</sup>;

**Whereas**, this cost is variable and difficult to budget for until a few weeks before classes begin;

**Whereas**, the federal Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 and the UW Board of Regents policy 4-18 requires that "to the maximum extent practicable, each institution of higher education receiving Federal financial assistance shall disclose, on the institution's Internet course schedule and in a manner of the institution's choosing, the International Standard Book Number and retail price information of required and recommended college textbooks and supplemental materials for each course listed in the institution's course schedule used for preregistration and registration purposes"

**Whereas**, professors often do not inform students of course materials in a timely manner;

**Whereas**, the Associated Students of Madison have had a history of supporting textbook affordability initiatives;

**Whereas**, savings of switching to an online textbook program are expected to be between 60%-80% per textbook;

**Be it resolved** textbooks would be billed through the Bursar's office, similar to tuition, but as a separate line item once classes are registered for;

**Be it resolved** financial aid can be applied to textbooks, streamlining the process;

**Whereas**, in a case study done at Texas A&M University-San Antonio students who switched to the eTextbook option saved \$1,374 for fall and spring semester combined<sup>2</sup>;

**Whereas**, in 2011 Indiana University switched to the online eTextbook model and have saved their students over \$11,000,000 in the 6 years of its implementation;

**Whereas**, print textbooks are being replaced with digital textbook formats;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://finaid.wisc.edu/undergraduate-cost.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [https://news.vitalsource.com/hubfs/Content/TAMU-SA/VS\\_CaseStudy\\_TexasA&M\\_spreads.pdf?hsCtaTracking=988bf490-439d-4220-9263-acd41a4de175%7C176ad1fc-ec1c-48be-9c2c-da0f078b441a](https://news.vitalsource.com/hubfs/Content/TAMU-SA/VS_CaseStudy_TexasA&M_spreads.pdf?hsCtaTracking=988bf490-439d-4220-9263-acd41a4de175%7C176ad1fc-ec1c-48be-9c2c-da0f078b441a)



**Therefore, the members of the ASM do resolve as follows:**

***Be it resolved*** that the Associated Students of Madison Student Council encourages students and faculty to support the online textbook pilot program;

***Be it resolved*** that professors are required to inform students of course materials and their cost before class registration open;

***Be it resolved*** that the Equity & Inclusion Chair and Shared Governance Campaign Director work in conjunction with the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning's office to work to develop assessment tools to provide measurable outcomes to determine the efficacy of the pilot and to continually push for affordable textbook options.

***Be it finally resolved*** that the Associated Students of Madison Student Council supports the online textbook spring pilot program within one or more departments offering undergraduate courses as proposed by the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning's office.

Date introduced: 09/19/2017

Date acted upon: 09/19/2017

Disposition: Passed

Secretary: Jordan Pasbrig

Chair: Katrina Morrison