Bill of Legislation:

Resolution on Faculty Usage of Open Education Resources in the College Classroom

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Preface: This resolution is drafted, proposed, and passed in response to the increasing costs of textbooks in college classrooms. IU South Bend student survey data displays an urgent need for lowering the cost of textbooks so students can succeed academically. Students on the IU South Bend campus are historically known for their non-traditional circumstances, such as paying out of pocket for their education, supporting families and children, and other external financial circumstances. The survey results are attached in Appendix A for review.

STUDENT RESOLUTION ON FACULTY USAGE OF OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES IN THE COLLEGE CLASSROOM

IU South Bend Student Government Association

WHEREAS, the price of textbooks has increased by 88%, which is three times the rate of inflation;

WHEREAS, students at IU South Bend have spent an average of $195.29 on textbooks during the Fall 2024 semester;

WHEREAS, 23% of survey respondents chose to either not enroll in a class or chose to drop a class due to the cost of the textbook;

WHEREAS, 77% of survey respondents chose to not purchase or rent their class's assigned textbook due to the cost;

WHEREAS, Open Education Resources are defined as online, free access, easily sharable, and affordable-to-print textbooks written by education professionals under open license;

WHEREAS, Open Education Resources offer affordable, comparable, and flexible alternatives to the expensive and heavily commercialized traditional college textbook;

WHEREAS, it is the prerogative of faculty to select the course materials that are most appropriate for their class;

WHEREAS, only 10% of faculty at IU South Bend utilize Open Education Resources in their coursework;

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to seek and consider low-cost and no-cost options, including Open Education Resources;

WHEREAS, Indiana University offers financial support to the faculty that create and use their own Open Education Resources in the classroom;

WHEREAS, students and faculty share a deep concern about textbook affordability and the impact of textbook pricing on student academic, personal, and financial success;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Indiana University South Bend Student Government Association recognizes and affirms that Open Education Resources are an optimal solution to increase education affordability for IU South Bend students;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Indiana University South Bend Student Government Association supports the usage and implementation of Open Education Resources in the college classroom;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Indiana University South Bend Student Government Association heavily implores IU South Bend faculty to select Open Education Resources for their course materials;

Appendix A – Pie Charts from Student Survey on OERs Results

3. Have you ever chosen to not enroll or drop a class because of the cost of the assigned textbook?

4. Have you ever chosen to not buy an assigned textbook because of the price?