

**ACT A-05-16**  
**The University of Alabama**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> Student Senate 2016-2017**

Authored by: Michael Smith

Sponsored by: Vice President of Academic Affairs Emily Cerrina, Education Policy Center, The Elliott Society, The Student's Voice, Association for Computing Machinery, Turning Points USA, College Democrats, Madison Bush, Josh Fuller, Sophia Veje, Rachel Brown, Pablos Ramos, Gene Fulmer, Charlotte Sheridan, Katie Buhai

**AN ACT TO ADOPT OPEN TEXTBOOKS**

*Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association assembled.*

Section 1. Findings - The Senate finds the following:

- a. Research conducted by the College Board has found that the average student should budget more than \$1200 per year for books and supplies.
- b. Open textbooks offer an affordable, comparable and flexible alternative to expensive, commercial textbooks.
- c. An "open textbook" is defined as: a textbook written by education professionals and released online under an open license permitting that everyone can freely use, print, share and adapt.
- d. It is appropriate to seek and consider low- and no-cost options, including open textbooks, as long as there is no reduction in educational quality.
- e. OpenStax.org runs a Open Education Resource Institutional Partnership Program which provides institutional support up to \$20,000 in value.
- f. Universities like Auburn University, Ohio State University, and the University of Georgia have all joined the Institutional Partnership Program this past year.
- g. The Senate should therefore act to help professors who want to adopt open textbooks in academic classes obtain the resources needed to do so, specifically focusing on high enrollment classes where effort is best utilized.

Section 2. Directions to the Vice President of Academic Affairs - The Vice President of Academic Affairs is hereby directed to work with the Office for Academic Affairs to specifically targets high enrollment, general education classes where an open textbook may be suitable in the curriculum.

Section 3. Directions to the Vice President of Academic Affairs - The Vice President of Academic Affairs is hereby directed to establish a committee to collaborate with the Office for Academic Affairs to focus on starting an initiative to adopt peer-reviewed open textbooks in subjects including, but not limited to, introductory level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy, Sociology, Psychology, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Algebra, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, and US History classes at the university.

Section 4. Directions to the Vice President of Academic Affairs - The Vice President of Academic Affairs is hereby to work with the committee, which was established in section 3, to create and deliver a progress report to the senate no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The report should include, but is not limited to, how many faculty members are willing to adopt open textbooks for their classrooms, a proposed budget for the \$20,000-value grant, and a strategic plan on how to properly implement the OpenStax Textbooks Program.

Section 5. Effective Date - This Act shall take effect upon its signature by the President or its otherwise becoming law.

Section 6. Distribution of Copies - Dr. Stuart Bell, President of the University of Alabama; Dr. Kevin W. Whitaker, Interim Provost; Lillian Roth, SGA President; Emily Cerrina, SGA Vice President of Academic Affairs; Peyton Shepard, Editor-in-Chief of *The Crimson White*; TJ Parks, Director of Senate Communications