

## **LATAC: Resolution in Support of the CSUSM Affordable Learning Solutions Initiative**

WHEREAS, CSU San Marcos students face economic challenges in completing their degrees, and the 2008 California Bureau of State Audits Report indicates that the average CSU student pays an estimated \$812 per year for textbooks; and many studies have shown book prices have risen at least 6% a year yielding a 2013 cost estimate of over \$1000; and

WHEREAS, The growing availability of low or no cost, high-quality online or open access instructional content, as well as lower-cost commercially published content, has provided a possible alternative to traditional textbooks in many disciplines; and

WHEREAS, New technologies are becoming available that make it possible for CSU San Marcos faculty, staff and students to discover, choose, create, and use digital or open access content; and

WHEREAS, The Affordable Learning Solutions program is an initiative launched by the CSU Chancellor's Office in 2010 to assist faculty in choosing and providing quality affordable educational content for students; and

WHEREAS, The goal of the Affordable Learning Solutions initiative campaign is to make a CSU degree more affordable while protecting quality learning experiences for students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate support CSU systemwide efforts that encourage CSU faculty to consider using high quality, low cost or no cost, accessible textbook alternatives, such as those promoted by the Affordable Learning Solutions initiative, while also preserving academic freedom; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate support the Cougars Affordable Learning Solutions Initiative (CALM) initiative developed by IITS and urges faculty to consider participating in the CALM initiative; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate urge faculty to assist in this effort by utilizing existing procedures to keep costs down such as complying with textbook request due dates in order to give the bookstore time to provide lower cost options such as buyback, used books, rentals, etc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate urge all faculty to continue exploring ways to increase the use of high quality, low cost or no cost, accessible instruction materials alternatives.