VANDERBILT STUDENT GOVERNMENT
A JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE INVESTIGATION OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AT SEC UNIVERSITIES

RESOLUTION 14-15-42

PROPOSED BY: TOWERS I&II SENATOR JACOB GRAHAM

CO-SPONSORED BY: BLAIR SENATOR KEEHEON NAM, ARTS & SCIENCE COUNCIL PRESIDENT SYLVIA PRECHT-RODRIGUEZ, ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR BRENT BEGANY, HANK INGRAM HOUSE PRESIDENT MATAN LOWIE, PEABODY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MEREDITH SIGHT, WARREN COLLEGE SENATOR DAMONTA MORGAN, FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF MARK HERZOG, ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR KATHERINE NASH, MURRAY HOUSE PRESIDENT MARY LANDRY, ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR JUDE COHEN, PEABODY COLLEGE SENATOR MOLLY WOLFE, CRAWFORD HOUSE PRESIDENT RYAN COYNE, GENERAL SECRETARY LAURA KEEL, SPEAKER OF THE SENATE JACKSON VAUGHT

We, the elected representatives of the Vanderbilt Student Body, hereby enact the following:

WHEREAS, the cost of textbooks have increased (87%) between 2003 and 2013, three times that of overall CPI (27%) during the same time frame; and,

WHEREAS, this phenomenon has made acquisition of textbooks a prohibitive barrier to a substantial number (65%) of students; and,

WHEREAS, Open Educational Resources are textbooks and other learning materials that are distributed online with permission for everyone to freely use, adapt and share the content; and,

WHEREAS, one study found that nearly three quarters (73.4%) of faculty consider the quality of Open Educational Resources to be the same as or better than that of traditionally published resources; and,

WHEREAS, more than 950 universities worldwide have adopted OpenStax College textbooks, a provider of Open Educational Resources; and,

WHEREAS, OpenStax College textbooks have saved students more than $30 million; and,

WHEREAS, utilizing Open Educational Resources have been shown to increase student pass rates, increase grades, and reduce withdrawal rates; and,

WHEREAS, this resolution represents a joint statement by the student governments of all SEC Universities; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the benefits of Open Educational Resources merits investigation at Vanderbilt University and across the SEC; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the findings of the Vanderbilt Student Government shall be presented to the Faculty Senate and relevant administrators; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this legislation shall be forwarded to the governing infrastructure of the SEC.

Signed by the Speaker of the Senate,  
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Jackson Vaught

Signed by the Student Body President,  
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Tanner Owen