


**MEMORANDUM**

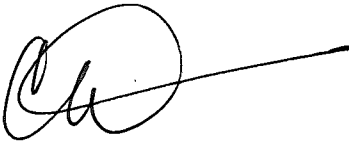
TO: Dean of Students Dr. Margarita Arellano  
Assistant Dean of Students Kathryn Weiser

DATE: Tuesday, October 1, 2019

FROM: Corey Benbow, Student Body President 

SUBJECT: S.R.18 The Affordable Homework Resolution

I approve of this legislation passed by the Student Government Senate which is Requesting Texas State University institute a policy disallowing faculty from making online textbook or homework access codes mandatory for the completion of a course.



X

Corey F. Benbow

Student Body President '19-20



**Author:**

Senator Halter, Colton

**Sponsors:**

Senator Browning, Alexa

Date of First Reading: September 9, 2019

S.R.2019.2020.18

A Resolution -

To be entitled "The Affordable Homework Resolution" requesting Texas State University institute a policy disallowing faculty from making online textbook or homework access codes mandatory for the completion of a course.

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2 **WHEREAS:** The Student Government has made it a goal to provide  
3 affordable and free textbooks to students, citing increased  
4 academic performance for those who purchase textbooks; and

5 **WHEREAS:** The current plan would certainly help students in  
6 classes that use traditional textbooks, however, an increasing  
7 number of classes are requiring students to purchase costly access  
8 codes in order to complete homework, quizzes, and even tests; and

9 **WHEREAS:** These codes are unique to one student, cannot be shared,  
10 borrowed, or resold, and expire after a certain amount of time,  
11 usually one year; and

12 **WHEREAS:** This has the effect of preventing students from using  
13 cost-saving measures to purchase textbooks, forcing them to pay  
14 full price for books that they may hardly use and an online service  
15 that is usually unintuitive, cumbersome, and is limiting for  
16 students who do not have ready access to a computer; and

17 **WHEREAS:** While professors should be given autonomy to teach their  
18 classes their own way, these codes do not substantially  
19 differentiate professors from each other and in fact have the  
20 opposite effect of standardizing courses; and

21 **WHEREAS:** Texas State University's online service (TRACs as of the  
22 writing of this resolution, but it is planned to be changed over  
23 to Canvas) offers a wide array of built in homework and quiz  
24 modules that could easily be used in place of online textbook  
25 codes; and

26 **WHEREAS:** Most students express dissatisfaction with these online  
27 services and do not find them worth the high price point; and

28 **WHEREAS:** It is within the power of Texas State University to set  
29 a policy disallowing mandatory access codes for classes; and

30 **WHEREAS:** Student Government's position is that students should  
31 have more options for purchasing textbooks and that they should be  
32 affordable; and

33 **BE IT RESOLVED:** The University will institute a policy  
34 disallowing professors from mandating online access codes in their  
35 courses, codes may be "recommended" or used for extra credit, but

36 they may not be considered necessary to obtain an A in the class,  
37 and this policy will be put in place by the beginning of the Fall  
38 2020 semester, however, earlier is advised; and

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** This legislation shall be forwarded to  
40 the Student Body President for further action.

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