



## Reduction of Textbook Costs Resolution

Resolution 22-23-20

**Whereas:** a core Jesuit value of the University of San Francisco is *cura personalis* - care of the whole person, meaning that our physical, mental, emotional, intellectual, social, environmental, and spiritual health are integral to our success as a USF student; and

**Whereas:** prohibitive textbook costs are a burden on one's academic journey at the University of San Francisco; and

**Whereas:** there is a insufficient number of free or low-cost alternatives to student required textbooks, including at the Gleeson Library; and

**Whereas:** there is an increasing number of students, without the means to secure licensed copies of their textbooks, turning to unauthorized sources or going without textbooks; and

**Whereas:** testimony by Charlotte Phan, a nursing student at USF, states:

*“When I started my sophomore year of nursing here at the University of San Francisco, like many students, I knew I would have to buy textbooks for certain classes; however, as I went through syllabus week, I found myself worrying more about the extra cost of textbooks than about doing well in the class. For example, some of my nursing classes had up to 6 mandatory textbooks, and the professors heavily discouraged using older editions due to frequent advancements in nursing and research. Despite only buying 3 of the 6 textbooks because they had built-in homework assignments, and using discount codes, I spent a total of \$621.01. For the other 3, I and several other of my classmates felt desperate enough to look for older editions of the remaining textbooks, even if they were not medically up-to-date. If I bought all 6 mandatory texts, the total would have been \$906. I can confidently say that if you asked students to choose between an up-to-date textbook that cost money or a free out-of-date edition, the majority would choose the older edition, even if it meant that they risked their grade by being tested on material they could not afford to access.”*



**Whereas:** In 2018, the University of San Francisco Faculty Association passed an Open Access Policy, the first to be passed in any Jesuit Institution that aligns with the University’s mission “to create, communicate, and apply knowledge to a world shared by people and held in trust for future generations,”<sup>1</sup> ; however, the depository has not be utilized to its maximum potential because of the lack of faculty input; and

**Whereas:** the University of San Francisco has partnered with other Jesuit universities on a \$1,533,300 grant from the US Department of Education to lead a three-year initiative to support the creation and use of open educational resources, which is estimated to save at least 6000 students more than \$500,000 in the first year of adoption alone; and

**Whereas:** Open Educational Resources are teaching and learning materials that are free of cost and access barriers, that additionally provide legal permission for open use; therefore, be it

**Resolved by the Associated Students of the University of San Francisco Senate in its role as the sole representative body of all the undergraduate students of the University of San Francisco, that the following be enacted:**

**Resolved:** the Gleeson Library and faculty work together to reduce student textbook purchases in their courses through efforts such as, but not limited to:

- a. providing digital photocopies of assigned readings on Canvas;
- b. increasing reliance on course reserves and other open access options;
- c. provide free or reduced-cost online access to textbooks; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** when drafting course syllabi, faculty be informed and encouraged to cooperate with the Gleeson Library in increasing the use of and development of course reserves, Scholarship Repository, and Open Educational Resources; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** the University adopts the goal and provides the necessary funding to eliminate all physical textbook purchases for all 100-level courses by Fall 2027 through redesigning courses, utilizing the course reserves system, and developing Open Educational Resources.

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<sup>1</sup> [University of San Francisco Faculty Association Open Access Policy](#)



**Submitted by:**

Ryan Mak, *At-Large Pre-Law Representative*

**Supported by:**

Shawn P. Calhoun MLIS, Ed. D., *Library Dean*

Annie Pho, *Head of Instruction & Outreach*

Nicola Andrews, *Open Education Librarian*

Sylvia Contreras, *Associate Dean for Access, Instruction, & Research*

Erika Johnson, *Associate Dean for Collection Services*

**Presented to the Senate on:**

April 26, 2023

**Passed by the Senate on:**

May 3, 2023

**Signed by:**

Ethan Lee-Bellows,  
ASUSF President



## **Appendix I:** Gleeson Library Letter of Support



Gleeson Library | Geschke Center  
2130 Fulton Street  
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Tel. 415.422.6167  
[usfca.edu/library](http://usfca.edu/library)

May 1, 2023

Ryan Mak (he/him)  
At-Large Pre-Law Representative  
Associated Students University of San Francisco (ASUSF) Senate

### **Gleeson Library Letter of Support for ASUSF Reduction of Textbook Cost Resolution** - Resolution 22-23-20

Dear Mr. Mak:

Gleeson Library | Geschke Learning Resource Center is very grateful for your support for and advocacy on behalf of USF students as well as the work we do here in the library. We also appreciate your willingness to consider ways that the library might partner with ASUSF to promote the many services and resources that we offer students, faculty and staff.

In support of your resolution, Gleeson Library remains committed to connecting students to resources through expanding open access and open educational resources; as well as supporting students through services such as [course reserves](#), a service providing access to faculty provided materials, and interlibrary [lending](#) and [Link+ services](#), a quick and no-cost way for USF students to access resources that are unavailable through the Gleeson Library collection. Additionally, Gleeson [librarians](#) and liaisons will continue to work with USF faculty to raise awareness of textbook affordability and other open access and open educational resource options.

Again, thank you for your leadership, Representative Mak. We are grateful to you and the ASUSF senate for partnering with Gleeson Library on initiatives that benefit USF students, faculty and staff.



UNIVERSITY OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

CHANGE THE WORLD FROM HERE

Sincerely,

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Annie Pho  
Head of Instruction & Outreach

Nicola Andrews  
Open Education Librarian

*Sylvia Contreras*

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Sylvia Contreras  
Access, Instruction & Research, Associate Library Dean

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Erika Johnson  
Collection Services, Associate Library Dean

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Shawn P. Calhoun MLIS, Ed.D.  
Library Dean

Cc Julia Chinere Oparah, Provost & VP of Academic Affairs  
Julie Orio, VP Student Life