



Institutionalization of a “Textbook Exchange Channel” Slack Workspace
Resolution 22-23-24

Whereas: a core Jesuit value of the University of San Francisco is *Cura Personalis* or care for the whole person, including the financial and academic well-being of a person; and

Whereas: increasing textbook prices have created a financial burden on USF students; and

Whereas: according to a 2015 study, textbook prices have increased 1041% since 1977¹, and they continue to increase due to inflation; and

Whereas: at USF alone, it is estimated that:

“students will spend \$1,600 on textbooks per year, a significant expense for students and their families.”² ; and

Whereas: rising textbook prices have negatively impacted the well-being of students.

According to the Education Data Initiative:

“25% of students reported they worked extra hours to pay for their books and materials [,] 11% skipped meals in order to afford books and course materials [, and] 82% of professors say textbooks and course materials cost their students too much.”³ ; and

Whereas: Slack is a messaging platform used by students, faculty, and staff at USF with a purpose to: *“empower USF to work efficiently, share resources and information, and leverage the shared knowledge of our institution.”⁴ ; and*

Whereas: the proposed “Textbook Exchange Channel” can help minimize the financial burden that rising textbook prices have on students of the University of San Francisco; and

¹ [College Textbook Prices Have Risen 1,041 Percent Since 1977](#)

² [A Textbook Dilemma](#)

³ [Average Cost of College Textbooks](#)

⁴ [Slack](#)



Whereas: the proposed Slack workspace would be utilized as a networking tool by students to directly bargain and sell previously used textbooks to one another by posting textbook prices of their choosing in order to sell used textbooks that are possibly cheaper than the standard textbook prices; 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: as a source of communication used by USF students, faculty, and staff, an official Slack workspace called “Textbook Exchange Channel” be created and institutionalized by the USF administration; furthermore, be it

Resolved: the USF Administration encourage students to join the “Textbook Exchange Channel” by promoting it through social media, emails, and university wide announcements at the beginning and end of each semester.

Submitted by:

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Supported by:

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Presented to the Senate on:

April 26, 2023

Passed by the Senate on:

May 3, 2023



Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ethan Lee-Bellows', written in a cursive style.

Ethan Lee-Bellows,
ASUSF President