

# Resolution I

TEXAS JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION  
AS AMENDED BY THE TJCSGA RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

A Resolution Concerning the Selection and Ordering of College Classroom Textbooks

- WHEREAS, The Texas Junior College Student Government Association (TJCSGA) is the official voice of over 54 community and junior colleges in Texas, representing over ½ million students; and
- WHEREAS, The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has discussed in their web site [www.gocenter.com](http://www.gocenter.com) that Texas must have a new infusion of students or the propensity for economic collapse may impact the entire state; and
- WHEREAS, According to the United States Census Bureau, in 2001 a person with a bachelor's degree earned nearly 90 percent more on average, than a person with only a high school diploma; and
- WHEREAS, Since 1980, the rate increase of the cost of post-secondary education has far exceeded the rate of inflation, public assistance to students, and family income; and
- WHEREAS, The rapidly rising cost of post-secondary education poses a serious threat to the ability of the people of the United States to ensure their and their children's access to post-secondary education. In fact, according to the September 16, 2003 edition of the Plain Dealer "The price of educational books and supplies has risen 238 percent, while the price of consumer goods overall has increased only 51 percent; and
- WHEREAS, Since 1992, the annual amount of new student loan commitments has increased from \$15,000,000,000 to \$35,000,000,000, which represents an increasing burden on college graduates to pay for their college education long after the education is completed; and
- WHEREAS, According to the National Association of Independent College and Universities, nearly 80 percent of their full time, dependent undergraduates receive some sort of financial assistance; and
- WHEREAS, Students can spend nearly \$1,000 a year on college textbooks, and for many students, particularly those in two-year and certificate programs, textbooks make up a large percent of post-secondary education costs; and

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WHEREAS, Recent practices of selling textbooks in bundles is inherently harming students. According to the University of California at Santa Barbara they are sold on the premise that it is a value to the students, but it also makes it possible to charge more and has the effect of making it more difficult for students to get used books; and

WHEREAS, The New York Times tells us "a little known economic fact: the very same textbooks used in the United States sell for half-price – or less – in England"; and

WHEREAS, A second New York Times article dated December 2, tells us "Costs could be cut in half by using simple book designs, streamlining the review process and adding less fluff."

RESOLVED by the TJCSGA in convention assembled, that the Texas Legislature investigate the following issues relating to text books:

- (a) explore the buying power of Texas State Colleges and universities to negotiate with publishers for lower text books prices;
- (b) any preference that may be given to countries overseas;
- (c) review the ability to reduce educational costs for textbooks by requiring only textbooks with significant pedagogical differences.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TJCSGA seek a commitment from each federal Texas representative and senator to co-sponsor House Bill 3567.

Respectfully submitted on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2004

Submitted by Girard Edward Sanchez Jr.  
El Paso Community College

*Amended and submitted to General Assembly by:  
TJCSGA Resolutions Committee on March 27, 2004*