Student Senate Resolution 2015-144

Title: Resolution Supporting College Affordability in the State of Florida

Authors: Majority Party Leader Haley Smith, Member at Large Charlie Brown Jr.,
Member at Large Ben Weiner, External Affairs Director Matthew Hoeck

Sponsor(s): Mental Health Awareness Ad Hoc Chairwoman Kylie Werk, Judiciary
Chairman Jason Richards, Senator Max Klein, Senator Denae Campanale

WHEREAS, tuition for higher education in the state of Florida has continued to be one
of the lowest in the nation; and,

WHEREAS, on December 2nd, 2015, Incoming Senate President Joe Negron expressed
state universities as a chief priority, aiming to make college more affordable, which
follows Governor Rick Scott’s Florida 2020 Plan Education Initiatives; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Scott is proposing to extend the sales tax exemption in the
purchase of college textbooks for an additional year; and,

WHEREAS, the prices of college textbooks have increased significantly over the years,
often exceeding $100 per book; and,

WHEREAS, exempting college textbooks from the state sales tax is expected to save
Florida students $46 million; and,

WHEREAS, according to the 2012 Florida Student Textbook survey, 54% of students
spent more than $300 on textbooks during Spring 2012 and 19% spent over $500, with
63% having not purchased textbooks because of the high cost¹; and,

WHEREAS, the goal of the Florida Legislature, as well as the Governor's Office, is to
continue to keep students informed of the costs of college as well as the states strides to
make college affordable; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate
supports the Florida 2020 Plan’s Education Initiatives, which aims to make college more
affordable through textbook sales tax exemptions and measures aimed at increasing
college transparency in regards to tuition increases; and,

¹ http://www.openaccesstextbooks.org/%5Cpdf%5C2012_Florida_Student_Textbook_Survey.pdf
THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate will continue to support strides to ensure college affordability.

Proviso: Florida Governor Rick Scott, Florida Senate President-Designee Joe Negron

[Signature]

Susan Webster
Senate President

12/14/15

Date