TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: Committee on Instruction and Curriculum (CIC)
SUBJECT: 15-16 CIC 41: Resolution to Enable Grant Application for State Funding for Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS)

ACTION REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the attached resolution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In October 2015, the California Legislature approved AB 798, the College Textbook Affordability Act (http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB798). The goal is “to produce the maximum amount of savings for students attending California Community Colleges and the California State University by supporting the maximum number of campuses acquiring the maximum amount of funding for their textbook affordability programs.”

Funding to support this bill will be distributed to campuses which meet the Request for Proposal criteria, the first of which is to ensure faculty support through a resolution passed by each campus’ Academic Senate. That resolution must include specific language related to the goals of AB 798 and also approve a plan for the campus. Our timeline is tight because our response to the RFP must be submitted by June 30, 2016.

On March 2, the chair of the Affordable Learning Solutions Subcommittee and a representative from the Online Campus attended an all-day meeting to learn about the RFP criteria and share information with colleagues seeking to apply for these grants. Interested faculty can view the RFP steps and criteria at http://coolfored.org.

While the ALS Subcommittee has only existed for a year and a half, the ALS initiative at CSUEB has been underway for approximately four years and progress has already been made. This is our opportunity to engage more interested faculty in seeking alternatives for their students and provide support, encouragement, and incentive for those faculty to make a difference.

To illustrate the significance of the ALS program, Sarah Brady, Legislative Aide to Assemblywoman Bonilla listed these data points:
Every year, students pay around $1,300 for textbooks

The cost of textbooks comprises 13% of tuition at a four-year public school

65% of students skipped purchasing or renting a textbook because of the cost

94% of those students thought the decision would hurt their grade

Nearly 50% of students reported that the cost of textbooks impacted how many courses they were able to take at a time

[Data from: The Student PIRGS, Open Textbooks: The Billion-Dollar Solution, February 2015; Wright, Sarah; Can Open Education Save Students From Expensive Textbooks?; study.com Education Insider News and Blog.]

The use of Open Educational Resources (OER) to replace some more expensive textbooks is one way to reduce textbook costs for our students. Grant funds can be used to test, develop, and/or implement OER at CSUEB. The definition and inclusion of Open Educational Resources being used for the grant are as follows:

"OER are high-quality teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license, such as a Creative Commons license, that permits their free use and repurposing by others, and may include other resources that are legally available and free of cost to students."

"OER includes, but is not limited to, full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, faculty-created content, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge."

The enclosed resolution provides the required language regarding the goals of AB 798 and a plan for the campus under the auspices of the ALS Subcommittee. A working group of members from the ALS Subcommittee, Faculty Development, the Online Campus, and student representatives would prepare the response to the RFP for submission by the June 30, 2016 deadline. A copy of the final RFP would be sent to the Academic Senate as an Information Item prior to its submission.

The ALS Subcommittee looks forward to a speedy review and subsequent passage of the resolution.
Resolution of the Academic Senate
to Support AB 798 and a Campus Plan for the Adoption
of Open Educational Resources at California State University, East Bay

The Academic Senate approves the resolution to support and encourage CSU faculty to consider using high-quality, low cost or no cost, accessible textbook alternatives, and to establish a working group to develop a specific plan as requested in Assembly Bill 798 to compete for grant funding allocated to the CSU by the bill.

WHEREAS: On October 8, 2015, Assembly Bill 798, “College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015”, http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB798 was signed into law by the Governor of California; and

WHEREAS: AB 798 aims to “increase student access to high-quality open educational resources and reduce the cost of textbooks and supplies for students in course sections for which open educational resources are to be adopted to accomplish cost savings for students"; and

WHEREAS: AB 798 creates an incentive program to reward CSU campuses, faculty and staff for accelerated adoption of open educational resources, up to an amount of $50,000 to the campus;

WHEREAS: To be eligible for the grant funds, AB 798 requires the local Academic Senate to adopt a resolution in support of increasing access to high-quality open educational resources to reduce textbook costs and supplies for students; and

WHEREAS: several faculty have already expressed their desire to be part of this effort

so therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California State University, East Bay support and encourage CSUEB faculty to consider using high quality, low cost or no cost, accessible textbook alternatives, such as the California Open Online Library for Education (COOL4Ed, www.cool4ed.org); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate charge the Affordable Learning Solutions Subcommittee to establish a working group to develop a specific plan as requested in AB 798 and request that this plan be presented to the Faculty Senate as an Information Item at a future meeting, prior to submission to the Chancellor of the California State University.

Resolution in Support of California State University, East Bay Participation in the Open Educational Resources Adoption Incentive Program of the College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015.