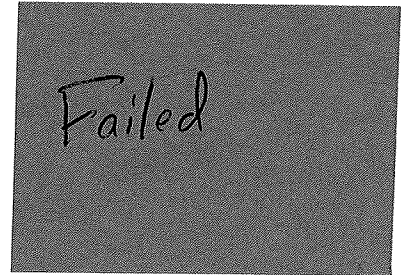


THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT ASSOCIATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS  
CONGRESSIONAL SESSION LXXIX  
February 26, 2008

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
SENATE SESSION GS-08  
February 24, 2008



CONGRESSIONAL BILL NO. 790601  
SENATE BILL NO. GS08-06

**Title:** CONCURRING RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HB 2493 SALES TAX EXEMPTION ON APPROVED COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS

**Whereas:** Students attending four-year public universities spent an average of \$983 on books and supplies in the 2007 academic year, an increase of more than \$300 over the previous seven years, according to The College Board, a research organization that manages the SAT.

**Whereas:** A 2005 Government Accountability Office (GAO) study showed that textbook prices have increased at twice the rate of inflation over the past two decades. The average cost of books and supplies for a full-time in-state freshman at a four-year college is roughly one-fourth of tuition and fees, according to the GAO.

**Whereas:** The legislature has already shown commitment to lower textbook costs as seen in House Bill 2103 which encourages college faculty and staff to work with bookstores and publishers to provide less costly options to students, and requires publishers to let school faculty and staff know what bookstores are paying for the books.

**Whereas:** In 2007, The Princeton Review named the University of Oklahoma one of its "Best Value" colleges

**Whereas:** College education costs have risen by over 60 percent since the 2000-2001 academic year. Average tuition, fees, room and board costs at four-year private universities have increased by \$10,067, from \$22,240 in the 2000-2001 academic year to \$32,307 in the 2007-2008 academic year. The cost of a college education is rising faster than inflation and family income.

**Whereas:** Based on information from the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education, approximately 238,000 students enrolled in state colleges in 2007, with an estimated \$248 million spent for textbooks in 2007, an average of more than \$1,000 per student.

**Whereas:** We understand the tax revenue from textbook costs may help the local governments in smaller cities in Oklahoma; we believe the extra money in students' hands would be spent in other areas of the economy to compensate.

Whereas: In the article on February 17, 2008, from the Associated Press, University of Oklahoma economist Robert Dauffenbach offered a word of caution, that Oklahoma is much more tied to the national economy than in the past and will be affected if there is a mild recession.

Whereas: House Bill 2493 introduced by Rep. Wes Hilliard (D-Sulphur) during the 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008) aims to eliminate all local and state sales tax on college textbooks with the aim of lessening the cost of higher education

Whereas: House Bill 2493 was approved by members of the House Subcommittee on Revenue and Taxation.

Therefore let it be resolved that:

Section 1: The University of Oklahoma Student Association (UOSA) fully endorses and supports House Bill 2493 that aims to eliminate all local and state sales tax on college textbooks

Section 2: The UOSA thanks the Oklahoma State Legislature for their support and request their continued support for Oklahoma Higher Education

Section 3: Copies of this Resolution shall be sent to the following:

David L. Boren, President, University of Oklahoma  
Nancy Mergler, Senior Vice President and Provost  
Dr. Chris Purcell, OU Regents  
Clarke Stroud, Dean of Students and Vice President, Student Affairs  
Ms. Susan Sasso, Student Affairs Associate Vice President  
Mr. Steve Bradford, Norman Campus Faculty Senate Chair  
Ms Mechelle Gibson, Provost Office  
The Oklahoma Daily  
The Norman Transcript  
The Tulsa World  
The Oklahoman

Author: Kenah Nyanat, UOSA President  
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Katherine Fox, UOSA Director of Student Organizations  
Alex Wilson, UOSA Office of City and State, Federal Legislative Relations and Research Coordinator  
John Rodgers, UOSA Director of Student Finances  
Kurt Davidson, UOSA Student Congress  
Matt Gress, UOSA Student Congress

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Congress: Failed

Verified by Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted on a Motion by: Walt Jathowski (83), seconded by Olivia Sammons (6)

Action taken by Senate: Passed by placard vote: For 32, Against 1, Abstain 6

Verified by Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by UOSA President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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