



## Senate Resolution 2020-09 Zero Textbook Cost

**Whereas,** The Yosemite Community College District mission statement mentions their commitment to responding to the needs of or diverse community, and emphasizing the part mentioning excellence in support programs contributing to economic development and wellness and,

**Whereas,** The Associated Students of Modesto Junior College mission statement states **to** express the general will of the students to the administration, and to ensure all student voices are heard and will be a voice in all decisions made on campus that may affect the student body and,

**Whereas,** students of Modesto Junior College has acknowledged in town halls and surveys that textbook costs are one of the top barriers to students attending college and,

**Whereas,** the barrier of textbooks was acknowledged by the state of California when state grant in the 2016-17 budget provided \$5 million to California community colleges to develop zero-textbook-cost associate degrees and certificates.

**Whereas,** the barrier of textbooks was acknowledged by California Governor Newsom in his proposed 2020-21 budget adding \$10 million to create more Zero-Textbook-Cost (ZTC) certificates at the state's community colleges and,

**Whereas,** the barrier of textbooks was acknowledged by Modesto Junior College when 290 courses in Spring 2020, and 95 courses in Summer 2020 utilized Zero Textbook Cost and,

**Stressing,** 90% of our students at MJC receive some form of financial aid with a high percentage living in poverty and,

**Emphasizing,** majority of our students are first generation students and already have a hard time adjusting to higher education, and struggle with food, housing, and financial insecurities and,

**Stressing,** many of our students are enrolled in 2 or more classes with textbook costs ranging from \$100 dollars to \$250 dollars per class and,

**Acknowledging,** most classes require more supplies than just a textbook, such as a calculator, access codes, gloves and goggles, and much more and,

**Acknowledging,** Zero Textbook Cost Courses eliminates financial barriers, and creates a strong foundation for growth and student success and,

**Mindful,** Zero Textbook Cost reduces the overall cost of education for students, and will help encourage students to take more courses and complete their time at MJC quicker and, be it

**Resolved,** The Associated Students of Modesto Junior College supports the idea of creating a Low Cost Course symbol from the price range of \$0.01-\$30.00 and, respectfully requests that MJC continues to have Zero Textbook Costs in place for the betterment of MJC student success. Furthermore, that MJC faculty make every effort to adjust the pedagogy to include the use of Zero Cost Textbooks.

**Approved** April 16, 2020

Yays – 11

Nays – 0