



MEMORANDUM

TO: ASI Board of Directors

DATE: February 25, 2021

FROM: Suha Hussain
ASI Board of Directors, CENG

COPIES: M. Maloney
D. Brummett
M. Crawford
L. Lee
T. Watson

SUBJECT: Endorsement #21-02: AS-912-21: Resolution on “Poly Access” Textbook Program

Purpose of the proposed Endorsement: The purpose of this endorsement is to show ASI Board of Directors support of *AS-912-21: Resolution on ‘Poly Access’ Textbook Program (AS-912-21)* passed by the Academic Senate on Feb. 23, 2021.

Background: Poly Access is the Cal Poly University Store’s course materials program which automatically enrolls students to receive access to digital course materials by first day of class. Students are automatically opted-in to the program and are responsible for the costs of the course materials available through Poly Access, unless they opt-out before the ADD/DROP deadline, which is the eighth day of instruction. Students who do not actively opt-out are charged for the course materials on their student account and failure to pay those costs may result in an account hold.

On Feb. 23, 2021, the Academic Senate passed *AS-912-21*, which urges the Cal Poly’s University Store to change its “Poly Access” program to an opt-in program. The opt-in program would prevent students from being required to pay for course materials by default, which are often unnecessary. The policies practiced through Poly Access are unethical as they assume students’ consent to purchase course materials that overall increases their out-of-pocket costs without sufficient notice and the chance to opt out. Students should reserve the autonomy to make decisions about their education and especially on matters that may impact their finances negatively.

Requested Action: It is requested that the ASI Board of Directors endorse *AS-912-21: Resolution on “Poly Access” Textbook Program* and send the endorsement to University President, Jeffrey D. Armstrong, and Cal Poly Corporation Chief Executive Officer, Cody VanDorn.

Attachment

[AS-912-21: Resolution on “Poly Access” Textbook Program]