



**RUSA Agenda January 24th, 2019**

**7:30pm @ Student Activities Center**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes
5. Officer Report
6. Legislation
  - a. Resolution to Advocate for A327/1149/3254
7. Advisor Report
8. External Representatives Report
9. Public Sector
10. Adjournment
11. Caucus Meetings

*"Public notice of this meeting has been given to all undergraduate students requesting such notice. Please speak to the Secretary of the Assembly after this meeting to learn more about how you can join the email list to receive a 24 hour meeting notice and a copy of the Agenda."*



**RUSA Resolution S19-01**

**Author:** Julien Rosenbloom, Bijan Terani

**Sponsor:** Legislative Affairs Committee

**Resolution to Advocate for A327/1149/3254**

*Whereas*, the mounting textbook costs for many courses often make attending higher education institutions unattainable for many students;

*Whereas*, Rutgers students spend up to \$1,500 annually on textbooks, according to NJPIRG<sup>1</sup>;

*Whereas*, initiatives at Rutgers pertaining to open textbooks have already saved students up to \$2 million in spending, which has proven to lead to higher grades amongst students;

*Whereas*, the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) has identified the issue of open textbooks and course material affordability to be one of shared concern between both undergraduates and lawmakers;

*Whereas*, several members of the New Jersey Legislature have introduced bills that would require public institutions of higher learning in New Jersey to submit a plan to the Secretary of Higher Education to transition universities' most popular courses towards open textbook usage;

*Whereas*, the New Jersey Senate version of the bill passed unanimously in 2018 and the New Jersey Assembly version of the bill passed committee unanimously and is awaiting action; and

*Whereas*, legislators and staff have been eager to work with the Legislative Affairs Committee to bring this issue to the forefront of the Assembly and aid in efforts to bring it to the floor for a Spring vote;

*Be it hereby resolved*, that RUSA endorses Assembly bills 327, 1149, and 3254<sup>2</sup> and their efforts to encourage a mass transition to open textbooks at New Jersey university campuses; and

*Be it further resolved*, that RUSA supports advocacy efforts to bring Assembly bills 327, 1149, and 3254 to the floor of the Assembly for a vote.

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RUSA President

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Date

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<sup>1</sup> ["Estimated Savings from Rutgers Open and Affordable Textbooks Program Tops \\$2.1 Million in its Second Year"](#) by Rutgers University Libraries

<sup>2</sup> [Assembly Committee Substitute for A327/1149/3254](#)