

Associated Students of Cerritos College

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

March 30, 2022

Deputy Director Amy Parker introduced the following Resolution,
Senator seconded the following Resolution

A RESOLUTION

Supporting the Usage of Open-Source Software by Students JR-2122-05

Whereas: Many courses require the purchasing or usage of proprietary software and programs, with most requiring a valid license of Microsoft Windows or Apple macOS, and almost all requiring a valid license of the Microsoft Office productivity suite for the usage of Microsoft Word; and

Whereas: Many of these programs cost significant amounts of money, which may be a burden to students; for instance, Microsoft 365 Personal costs \$69.99 for one year^[1], and a license for Windows 10/11 Home costs \$139.99^[2]; and

Whereas: Students may choose to instead use fully compatible alternatives, such as the Linux and *BSD family of operating systems or the LibreOffice and OnlyOffice productivity suites, which provide the same functionality at no cost; and

Whereas: Proprietary software as mentioned restricts the freedom of students to modify their software and understand it, as the source code may not be viewed or modified; and

Whereas: Proprietary software companies have had a history of violating the privacy rights of their users as the users can not directly analyze the source code to find that which could lead to a violation of their privacy or a breach of their system security, as compiled in lists such as that by the GNU Project^[3]; and

Whereas: Students should have the right to use software which still allows them to accomplish their goals in a given class without having to worry about financial burdens, software incompatibility, violations of their privacy, potential security vulnerabilities, or restrictions on their software freedom;

Resolved: The Associated Students of Cerritos College supports the rights of students to, when compatible, use open-source software alternatives; and

Resolved: The Associated Students of Cerritos College requests that teachers, when reasonable, allow students to use open source software which is compatible with the requirements of the course; and

Resolved: The Associated Students of Cerritos College recognizes the need for specialized proprietary software in certain courses, and requests that either alternatives to this software be found or prior knowledge of the proprietary software requirements be given publicly.

[1] *Compare all Microsoft 365 Plans*. Microsoft Corporation. Retrieved 17 March 2022 from <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/buy/compare-all-microsoft-365-products>

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[2] *Download Windows 10 Home*. Microsoft Corporation. Retrieved 17 March 2022 from <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/d/windows-10-home/d76qx4bznwk4/1NT3?rtc=1&activetab=pivot:overviewtab>

[3] *Proprietary Software is Often Malware*. GNU Project. Retrieved 17 March 2022 from <https://www.gnu.org/proprietary/proprietary.en.html>

Amendment History

Final Senate Action

Date of final vote: 3/30/2022

Senators Voting Aye: Alamgir, Cao, Criollo, Cuevas, Francos, Gomez, Lola, Ortega, Rocha, Trevino

Senators Voting Nay:

Senators Abstaining:

Vote Count: 10 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstain

Committee Referral

Referred to Committee? Yes/No

Committee Performing Review (if applicable):

Committee Chairperson:

Committee Action: (Report complete disposition, amendments, committee vote, or date of final action.)

Presidential Action

Presidential Action (Approved or Veto): _____



Presidential Signature: Sandra Abundio _____ **Date: 3/30/2022**

If vetoed, state reason: