

TIMELY ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS

Whereas, The Governor’s Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education¹ has recommended that all institutions of higher education in Ohio explore means of reducing the cost of textbooks and report annually on their progress in that area;

Whereas, Title I, Section 133 of the federally enacted Higher Education Opportunity Act (2008)² requires institutions receiving federal financial aid to disclose required and recommended textbooks as soon as practicable upon the request of a contractually affiliated college bookstore and not later than the time at which students can first begin to register for a course;

Whereas, The Wright State Student Government Association (SGA) recently adopted a resolution that specifically “urges the Wright State University faculty to consider less-expensive course materials without compromising the quality of instruction”;

Whereas, The timely adoption of textbooks, can allow students to purchase textbooks at a significantly lower cost (e.g. by affecting the supply of used textbooks through the purchase of used books from Wright State University students) without reducing revenue to the University or compromising quality of instruction;

Whereas, Barnes & Noble – The Wright State University Bookstore (B&N – WSU) receives a large fraction of textbook orders long after the time when students can first begin to register for courses;

Whereas, B&N – WSU estimates that Wright State students saved approximately \$1.2 million in the 2015-16 academic year by choosing to use used, rented, or digital options rather than new textbooks and estimates that an additional \$550,000 would have been saved if all textbook adoptions were made prior to the time when students could first enroll in classes;

Whereas, The timely ordering of textbooks would complement other efforts by faculty to reduce textbook costs (e.g. the adoption of open source/on-line textbooks, the use of earlier editions of textbooks, making textbooks on course reserve through the University Library more accessible, maximizing the possibility that a student could use the same textbook for multiple courses); now, therefore, be it

Resolved, The Wright State Faculty Senate encourages faculty to make textbook adoptions prior to the time when students can first register for their courses and recommends the exploration of appropriate incentives structures to ensure broad cooperation; and let it further be

Resolved, The Wright State Faculty Senate Executive Committee should create an ad hoc committee or charge a standing committee with the task of developing additional strategies to reduce the cost of textbooks so that a report can be made to the Faculty Senate at its first meeting of the 2017-18 academic year.

¹ <https://www.ohiohighered.org/affordability-efficiency/task-force>

² <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-110publ315/pdf/PLAW-110publ315.pdf>