

Student Government Association
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Committee: University Administration and Finance

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A Resolution to Establish Textbook Policy

Whereas, students should not incur extreme costs impairing their ability to study at the University of Houston

Whereas, college costs have risen by more than 50 percent since 1990 and recognizing that the average college student in the United States pays \$900.00 a year for textbooks; and

Whereas, \$900.00 is an extra 7.5 percent of the University of Houston average in-state tuition of \$12,000.00; and

Whereas, 73 percent of textbooks are new and 27 percent are used textbooks sold on campus; and

Whereas, 40 percent of books on campus are customized, shrink wrapped, or loose-leaf books; and

Whereas, ordering customized, shrink wrapped, loose-leaf books, or changing book orders per semester leads to a 100 percent net cost for students because of its zero percent buyback value; and

Whereas, 28 percent of professors submitted their Fall 2007 textbook adoptions by the due date of March 30, 2007, leading to a rise in amount of used textbooks on campus and increasing buy-back by \$400,000.00; and

Whereas, late adoptions of books decrease buy-back value by 80 percent; and

Whereas, reducing customized books and increased textbook adoptions submitted on-time contribute to rises in both used book availability and buy-back dollars; and

Whereas, there are only 1,000 textbooks on reserve at the remodeled and frequently used UH M.D. Anderson Library despite the 2,559 courses offered in Fall 2007; and

Whereas, there are currently 1,380 Fall 2007 sections that use WebCT; and



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Whereas, it is important that professors utilize student fee funded WebCT, reduce the use of customized books, turn in book adoptions on time, and have more textbooks on reserve at the UH M.D. Anderson Library;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of the 44th Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

Section 1: Acknowledging that early and on-time textbook adoptions by professors increase buy-back and cut net costs, we continue to encourage professors to turn in book adoptions on time by working with the UH Bookstore to remind professors of the deadlines.

Section 2: Request that professors have three to five extra copies of their books from publishers on reserve at the M.D. Anderson library for student use.

Section 3: Encourage professors, who choose to do so, to use a one-stop electronic medium (WebCT or CASA or websites free for student use), already paid for by the student's fee bill to post assignments and communicate with students.

Section 4: Request that professors refrain from ordering shrink wrapped, customized, or loose-leaf books or changing book editions after every semester in order to increase used books on campus and reduce net cost for students.

Speaker of the Student Senate,

Ryan Free

President of the Student Government,

David Rosen