



University of Washington
FACULTY SENATE
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Class C Bulletin No. 491

Resolution Concerning Affordable Textbooks

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WHEREAS, the escalating cost of conventionally produced and distributed textbooks well outpaces inflation and shows every sign of continuing to do so; and

WHEREAS, students face increased financial stress from similarly escalating tuition rates, transportation costs, and housing expenses; and

WHEREAS, the University Book Store textbook buyback program can dramatically reduce the cost of conventional textbooks for students when textbooks continue to be used across quarters, but it is heavily impacted when faculty members adopt the newest editions of textbooks as soon as they are released; and

WHEREAS, new models are emerging that have the potential to restructure the textbook industry and lead to systematically increased affordability; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate commends UW faculty and the University Book Store for their work to select and deliver textbooks at an affordable price; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate commends the University Book Store for reducing the net cost of educational materials through the ten percent rebate program; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate encourages UW faculty to use earlier editions of textbooks and to only adopt new editions in the case of actual pedagogical improvement rather than solely aesthetic rearrangement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate encourages UW faculty to take a leadership role in embracing more affordable models for the textbook industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the UW Book Store CEO Bryan Pearce, Vice President and Vice Provost for Student Life Eric Godfrey, and the UW Book Store Board of Trustees.

Submitted by:
Tim Mensing, ASUW President
February 22, 2010

Approved by:
Senate Executive Committee
February 22, 2010

Approved by:
Faculty Senate
March 11, 2010