A Proposal to the University Senate 2016-7

University Faculty Rule 3335-19-03 (B) (1) states the Steering Committee shall r*eceive through the university senate office proposals for senate action or other presentations to the senate from any committee of the senate, or university committee or council, or member of the senate, or any member of the university community.* This form, although not required, will expedite your proposal and may be sent to the Senate Secretary, Tim Gerber, at [gerber.4@osu.edu](mailto:gerber.4@osu.edu) with copies to the Steering Committee Chair at [lee.133@osu.edu](mailto:lee.133@osu.edu). Electronic submission in MS \*.docx format is preferred. Do not send graphical scans.

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| Initiated by  \_check any that apply | \_\_Senate committee \_\_University committee \_\_Council  \_X\_Senator \_\_University community \_\_Other | |
| Date | co-Sponsor if any | February 2, 2017 | Mario Belfiglio, Varsha Challapally, Maria Vargo, Michael Frank, Carla Gracia, Mary Honaker, Sam Whipple |
| Proposal title | **A Proposal to Increase Textbook Affordability by Encouraging Timely Ordering** | |
| Issue addressed | Per the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, institutions receiving federal financial aid must disclose required and recommended textbooks as soon as practicable upon the request of a contractually affiliated college bookstore [Title I, §133(e)]. Following this provision, Barnes & Noble sets a deadline for faculty to submit textbook orders, which is April 13th for fall courses. In practice, Barnes & Noble receives many faculty orders over the summer, well after their deadline.  The shorter timeline for these late orders affects the supply of used textbooks. Timely orders give Barnes & Noble a wider window to shop used markets. In addition, they allow the store to buy back books from OSU students during final exams of the previous semester. When textbook orders are submitted late, Barnes & Noble must increase its reliance on new textbooks, which are more expensive to students.  Thus, there are two avenues of savings: proceeds from buybacks and the opportunity to purchase cheaper used textbooks. Barnes & Noble’s own estimates indicate that students could save $2.5 million on textbooks if all faculty orders were submitted by the deadline. Because these savings would directly benefit students without drawing revenue away from the university, timely textbook ordering is an ideal affordability goal.  Two contributing factors to late textbook orders are a lack of knowledge about the deadline’s importance and incomplete Department teaching schedules. Both of these issues could be addressed through incentives at the Department level. In particular, there is great opportunity with General Education courses, given their high enrollments and their large share of total textbook spending.  Currently there is movement to unlock these savings. Faculty leadership, senior administrators, and the Undergraduate Student Government are discussing options to incentivize timely ordering at the Department level. This proposal seeks a University Senate Resolution to encourage timely textbook ordering wherever possible and to endorse appropriate incentive structures to ensure broad cooperation across Departments. | |
| Proposal | We propose that the University Senate pass a resolution encouraging all instructors to submit textbook orders prior to the Barnes & Noble deadline. A heightened awareness of the deadline and the cost to students should help to encourage earlier textbook submissions, generating substantial savings.  We suggest that the Council on Distance Education, Libraries, and Information Technology, the Council on Academic Affairs, and Faculty Council review this proposal for concurrence. We hope to pass a University Senate Resolution on March 9th, so as to realize savings for Fall 2017. | |
| Budget & support | Although there are negligible costs to the university, students will ultimately save $2.5 million via buybacks and used textbook availability at Barnes & Noble. These savings could assist with any legislatively mandated reductions in cost of attendance. | |
| Attachments, if any | <https://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_1162017_22337390.pdf>  [USG Report: Call to Action on Textbook Affordability](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mLnyLCbyUvVcvVBZpDf7pv9SAMqo61nBZYkSZjo-9CU/edit?usp=sharing)  <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-110publ315/pdf/PLAW-110publ315.pdf>  Testimony from Barnes & Noble Store Manager Kathy Smith at the Senate Steering Committee, February 16th | |

*The Faculty Leaders (Chair, Faculty Council; Chair Elect Faculty Council; Secretary of the Senate and Chair, Steering Committee) will review this proposal and forward it to the Steering Committee for disposition following the published proposal pathway. You may be invited to this or other committees or councils to discuss the idea. Proposals for the Fall semester may reach the senate in the current academic year, whereas those in the Spring semester may be deferred to the following academic year. Thank you for your proposal.*