

Senate of College Councils Policy Briefing

S.R. 1111 – Calling for University Policy to assist in reducing course material costs

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BACKGROUND

- **Textbook costs have risen dramatically and above the rate of inflation over the past few decades**
- **The University has adopted a number of measures to reduce cost including: Buybacks, Rental and online ordering**
- **Textbook prices and availability continues to plague students and results in an increase in prices**

PURPOSE

- **To effectively plan course material requirements and develop a system at the University that allows students more options, lower costs and consistency in education**
- **To reduce the ultimate cost of course materials to students and make the process of adopting course materials more efficient, standardized and equitable.**
- **To ensure compliance with Federal and state laws.**

SUMMARY

- **Textbook costs have risen dramatically over the past few years and continue to do so.**
- **HB33 Recognizes that issue and the University is prepared to Act. Yet we would like to see them go beyond the legal minimum.**
- **The single most effective (and free) solution for addressing costs is with long term planning.**

WHEREAS SUMMARY

1-59

- GAO: 1986-2004, course materials costs rose 186%**
HB 33 attempted to resolve the problem
Turning in 30 days before registration, standardizing course materials among same courses to ensure equality, and adopting course materials for a minimum of 3 years would:
- **1) drastically reduce costs to students,**
 - **2) ease compliance with HB33 and**
 - **3) ensure course quality, costs, and consistency**

RESOLVED SUMMARY

59-85

**Course material requirements be turned 30 days before registration
Course Instructor Surveys to include: the Course Materials (e.g.
Textbook) was effective, Information about required Course Materials
was available in a timely manner
Department heads determine course materials if not designated 30
days before registration
Courses with same course number shall adopt same course materials
Adopt course materials for 3 year periods for large courses
Professors must demonstrate that amending requirements will result in
improved quality to Provost
The Provost shall provide course material requirements and enrollment
numbers as a means to reduce costs**

SENT TO

Provost Steven Leslie, President Bill Powers, Board of Regents, Dean of Students Soncia Lilly, College Deans, Office of Student Financial Services, Representative Dan Branch, Senator Judith Zaffirini, President of the University COOP George Mitchell, and Office of the Registrar.

**NEXT STEPS IF
PASSED**

- Present to Faculty Council
- Present to University Administration
- Enact

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