UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF REASONABLY PRICED TEXTBOOKS

WHEREAS, high textbook prices decrease the accessibility of higher education: In 21st Century America, a college education is critical for individual success and for the strength of our nation; and

WHEREAS, The Government Accountability Office and The Student PIRGs have found that textbooks cost students approximately $900 per year, on average, which is nearly one-fifth of tuition at a state university and nearly half of tuition at a community college; and

WHEREAS, with tuition already at all-time highs, the added cost of textbooks can be a "tipping point" expense for middle and low-income students; and

WHEREAS, commercial textbook publishers engage in tactics to drive up prices: Textbook prices have increased four times the rate of inflation over the past decade, due in part to business practices that artificially inflate the price of textbooks, mainly:

• "Bundling" supplementary materials with textbooks that do not add significant educational value;

• Undermining availability of cheaper used books through excessive new editions and single-use editions;

• Withholding pricing information from faculty so they cannot easily determine the lowest cost materials; and
WHEREAS, states such as Connecticut and Washington have enacted statewide measures to control some of the most common practices that result in increased costs; and

WHEREAS, these measures help control the costs of textbooks by increasing the power that textbook purchasers have without limiting the academic freedom of faculty or the free speech rights of publishers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate supports state legislation that:

- Increases choice in textbook selection by requiring that unbundled options be made available to both faculty and students;
- Increases information provided to faculty by requiring that they be informed about significant changes in content in new additions of textbooks;
- Increases information provided to faculty by requiring full price disclosure on the part of the publisher before a textbook selection is made; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage President Raymond French transmit copies of this resolution to Dr. Kimberly Barrett, Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Development & Diversity; Dr. Marty Wood, Chair, University Senate; Daniella Lopez, Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group; and Jesse Dixon, Acting Associate Dean of Student Development, Student Development & Diversity.

Submitted by:
Raymond French, Student Body President
Meghan Charlier, Student Body Vice President
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