

Guidelines for Making Textbooks More Affordable

University of Wisconsin System

Board of Regents

May 7, 2009

Process for Moving Forward

- May 2009 – Regents adopt Interim Guidelines for Making Textbooks More Affordable.
- Fall 2009 – Development of Regent Policy with input from relevant constituent groups and close adherence to governance structure.
- Late Fall 2009 or Winter 2010 – Draft Policy to Education and Business, Finance, & Audit Committees for approval.

Federal Requirement

2008 Higher Education Opportunity Act

By June 2010:

Disclose International Standard Book Number (ISBN) & price information on required & recommended college textbooks & supplemental materials.

Present activities by UW System institutions to keep textbooks affordable

- Encourage faculty to adopt textbooks early
- Textbook Rental Programs:
 - UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, UW-Whitewater, UW-Barron, UW-Richland
 - Pilots at UW-Marshfield/Wood County and UW-Sheboygan

Interim Guidelines

- A. UW institutions encouraged to develop schedules for early adoption of textbooks.
- B. Bookstores shall provide faculty & staff with prices of course materials.
- C. Faculty & staff encouraged to use same textbook for multiple semesters.
- D. Faculty & staff encouraged to only order new editions if older editions are not of comparable educational content.

Interim Guidelines

- E. Faculty & staff encouraged to request unbundled versions of textbooks & course materials.
- F. If bundled materials are assigned, bookstores should make both bundled & unbundled versions of materials available.
- G. Faculty & staff should permit students to purchase electronic versions of textbooks.
- H. UW institutions encouraged to look for creative ways to lessen financial hardship of college textbook purchases.