

Why do textbooks cost so much?

Publishers charge what the market can bear (e.g. cheaper in Canada)
Bookstore has good brochure on this
(Information available online from [National Association of College Stores](#))
Limited market
Takes considerable effort to produce textbooks
Consider paperback versus hardback

What if old edition is better than new edition?

Alert bookstore – has resources that *may* be able to supply old edition for a term or two

Students are used to getting free books – high school supplies books

Departments have textbooks

- Departments should put text books on reserve in library
- Consider using regular books instead of textbooks, if appropriate

All (bookstore and faculty) are on the same side

- For the students
- Enhance students' education
- Provide value for the students

Faculty don't always see the big picture

- Real cost of a book is initial cost minus buyback
- Book store buys back books used next term at 50% of original price
- Faculty using the same book makes buyback possible.
- If using a package, are all parts of package required?
- If parts not required, write on order something like "CD not required"
- Do students need a workbook?
- ISBN nook with CD different from ISBN book no CD

Customized textbooks

- More & more popular
- Need 200 copies over 2 years
- Agreement with faculty, not bookstore

EAC task force looking into issue

- 4 students
- 4 faculty
- 4 other

Steps to limit cost

- Student buy used books
- Faculty don't change texts so often (limits buyback)
- Buying power for more books (SAC agree on fewer books for a course)
- Faculty support your adoption (increase buyback)

Electronic course packs

- Idea of setting up a copyright office to assist faculty with setting up reserves
- Talk with SAC

Great links:

[National Association of College Stores](#)

Select resources –

Colleges/Universities/Higher Education

Options and Alternatives for Students: The High Cost of Textbooks.

University of WisconsinMadison. January 2005.

As of October 28, 2005 available at

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/news/ULC/textbooks.pdf>

University Library Committee Annual Report 2004-2005.

Univeristy of WisconsinMadison. As of October 28, 2005 available at

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/News/ULC/reports/04-05.pdf>.

Lifting the Weight of College Textbooks Costs.

American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Vol. 2, No. 3. As of October 28, 2005 available at

http://www.aascu.org/policy_matters/pdf/v2n3.pdf.

Special Act No. 04-3. An Act Concerning Student Textbook Purchasing Policies. Connecticut Taskforce on the Cost of College Textbooks. Board of Governors for Higher Education, Dept. of Higher Education, State of Connecticut. January 2005. As of October 31, 2005 available

at <http://www.ctdhe.org>.

Report on Textbook Rental Study. State of Illinois Board of Higher Education. February 1, 2005. As of October 31, 2005 available at

<http://www.ibhe.state.il.us/Board/Agendas/2005/February/Item%2010.pdf>.

Government/Quasi-Gov

108th Congress. 1st Session. H.R. 3567: To require the General Accounting Office to conduct an investigation of the high price of college textbooks. Introduced by David Wu, D-OR, November 20, 2003.

As of October 31, 2005 available at

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_cong_bills&docid=f:h3567ih.txt.pdf.

1/30/2004 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness (see

[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d108:20:./temp/~bdJcOU:\):](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d108:20:./temp/~bdJcOU:):).

Rip-off 101: How the current practices of the textbook industry drive up the cost of college textbooks.

CALPIRG Higher Education Project.

January 2004. As of October 31, 2005 available at

<http://calpirg.org/CA.asp?id2=11987&id3=CA&>.

Bookstores

FAQ on College Textbooks. National Association of College Stores.

2005. As of October 28, 2005 available at

http://www.nacs.org/common/research/faq_textbooks.pdf.

Publishing

AAP Endorses Conclusions of GAO Study Showing That Changes in Technologies and Student Learning Drive College Textbook Prices.

Association of American Publishers Press Release. August 16, 2005.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/050816/nytu079.html>.

Higher Education Publishing: Press Information.

Association of American Publishers.

<http://www.publishers.org/highered/topics.cfm?topicid=5>.