

To: Department Heads

From: Tim Sands 

Date: October 30, 2013

Subject: Cost of Textbooks

Dear Colleague,

The spiraling cost of textbooks is of great concern to all of us, especially to our students. There are several ways faculty and instructors can help control the costs of texts and course materials.

First, please ask faculty to make sure they use the books they require their students to buy. While this may seem obvious, nearly every semester we receive complaints from students who purchased a required text for a course, which was subsequently not used by the instructor.

Next, it is critical that all required texts are identified when students register for classes. This is a Federal law. The Office of the Registrar is working with textbook coordinators from each department to collect this information by November 1, 2013. We are in the process of adding links to course materials in the course schedule in MyPurdue, providing students with information about their courses.

Our local bookstores have assured us that they will use this timely information to conduct an aggressive search in secondary markets for used texts, helping to further control costs for our students.

Some instructors may wish to consider options other than textbooks. Three options are available from Purdue:

1. Purdue University Press and Scholarly Publishing Services (<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/publishing>) can work with those seeking to create new and original texts in printed or electronic forms, or reissue existing texts to which faculty own the copyright (contact Charles Watkinson at [ctwatkin@purdue.edu](mailto:ctwatkin@purdue.edu).)
2. The BoilerCopyMaker is an option for those wanting printed course packets. See <https://www.purdue.edu/printingservices/sidenav/student%20resources/coursepackets.html> or contact them via e-mail at [blcm@purdue.edu](mailto:blcm@purdue.edu) and via phone at 496-3888.
3. For those seeking either e-course packets or other options to textbooks (such as developing low-priced eTexts), ITaP has several options available. See <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/studio/> or contact [studiohelp@purdue.edu](mailto:studiohelp@purdue.edu).

Finally, please ask faculty to carefully consider customized texts. Although some publishers encourage this as a means to control costs, the end product has virtually no resell value. Yet in certain cases it may make great sense.

As you look to the Spring semester, please do what you can to help faculty keep textbook costs to a minimum. I know our students will appreciate it.

Thank you.

cc: Academic Deans