ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA

AS-630-05

RESOLUTION ON
TEXTBOOK PRICING

1 WHEREAS, Current textbook prices are of concern to faculty and students; and

2 WHEREAS, The Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) of Cal Poly has passed a resolution on
textbook pricing; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly recognize the students' concerns contained in ASI
Resolution #05-06 entitled Support for Campus Leadership in Textbook Price Reduction”
(attached); and be it further

4 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly endorse the principles contained in ASI Resolution
05-06; and be it further

5 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly urge department chairs and heads to promote timely
submission of textbook orders by their faculty; and be it further

6 RESOLVED: That department chairs, heads, and deans be encouraged to make teaching assignments as
early as possible so faculty can order textbooks in a timely manner; and be it further

7 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly follow up on other aspects of textbook, and other
textbook materials, pricing by holding meetings of the Faculty Affairs Committee with
representatives of El Corral Bookstore, campus textbook authors, students, representatives
of publishing companies, and other knowledgeable parties, with the intent of writing a
further resolution on this issue; and be it further

8 RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be sent to academic department chairs, department heads,
and deans.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Executive Committee
Date: February 15, 2005
Revised: March 7, 2005
Revised: March 8, 2005
Whereas: ASI is the official voice of the Cal Poly student body, and

Whereas: According to a survey by the California Student Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) students spent an average of $898 per year on textbooks in the 2003-04 school year, or almost 20% of the cost of in-state fees; and

Whereas: According to the same survey a new textbook costs $102.44 on average, 58% more expensive than the price of an average used textbook, $64.80; and

Whereas: Notices are issued to every faculty member requesting which textbooks will be required the following quarter; and

Whereas: According to El Corral Bookstore only 15-20% of faculty respond back to these notices before the deadline causing buyback prices to be severely reduced, and

Whereas: Textbooks often come with bundled supplemental course materials that significantly increase the overall cost of textbooks to students, and

Whereas: CALPIRG reported that 65% of faculty "rarely" or "never" use the bundled materials in their courses; and

Whereas: Faculty and El Corral Bookstore have power to reduce the cost of textbooks to students at Cal Poly.

Therefore
Be it resolved: Faculty are encouraged to respond to textbook requisitions in a timely manner so the bookstore can buyback used books at a higher price and make the used editions available for purchase, and

Furthermore
Be it resolved: ASI encourages El Corral Bookstore to use all means possible to educate students about available discounts options for purchasing textbooks, and

Furthermore
Be it resolved: ASI encourages El Corral Bookstore to use all means possible to ensure that all students receive the fairest prices on new and used textbooks, and
Furthennore
Be it resolved: Faculty are encouraged to reuse textbooks while current editions are readily available and as long as they uphold current academic merit, and

Furthennore
Be it resolved: Faculty are encouraged to choose textbooks with the widest possible availability to ensure the lowest price to the students, and

Furthennore
Be it resolved: Faculty are encouraged to not choose bundled textbooks unless they fully intend to use the supplemental materials and should be aware of bundled vs. non-bundled options.

*For the purpose of this resolution the term faculty shall include professors, lecturers, teaching aids, graduate students, or anyone else involved in the textbook selection process.

CERTIFIED as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and Seal of the Associated Students, Inc. this 26th day of January, 2005.

ASI Secretary

ASI Chair of the Board

ASI President

Sponsored by: Joe Vaccaro, Vice Chair ASI Board of Directors, College of Engineering
Blake Bolton, ASI President
Adam Mednick, ASI representative to the Academic Senate
Sarah Cowan, ASI representative to the Academic Senate
To: David Hannings  
Chair, Academic Senate

From: Warren J. Baker  
President

Date: April 8, 2005


Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-630-05 Resolution on Textbook Pricing

This is to acknowledge receipt and approval of the above-entitled Resolution. By copy of this memorandum, I urge the college deans to inform their department heads/chairs of this resolution and the need for timely submission of textbook orders by their faculty, which will assist El Corral Bookstore in its ability to offer better pricing for our students.

I very much appreciate Senate's willingness to address this issue.