



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 64-104

The Student Senate
64th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Academic Affair Chair Brody Smith, Off Campus

Action Taken

PASSED
April 18, 2012

Certified By:

Tanner Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

Duly Approved:

Jeff Pickering
Student Body President
4-25-12

The Direct Buy Textbook Experiment Bill

"A bill requesting that Texas A&M University make a deal with a publisher to provide books directly for students in a single department to discover the potential business opportunities for students and the university."

- Whereas(1):** There are currently 50,000 plus students attending Texas A&M University trying to get a degree in the most expedient and fiscally responsible way possible; and,
- Whereas(2):** Currently, students have the option of purchasing their books for class online and at businesses in the community and on campus; and,
- Whereas(3):** The University of Houston in Spring 2011 implemented an experiment of allowing multiple departments in their liberal arts college to partner with a publisher directly for their textbooks; and,
- Whereas(4):** The prices for the textbooks coming from the publisher directly were cited as costing 40% less than normal retail sales from other bookstores which also included a better academic standard in the quality of the books provided; and,



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Whereas(5): Currently, the Student Government Association is pursuing an open source textbook initiative to allow students to have a more competitive price when purchasing their textbooks while still getting the same information to get the best knowledge needed for class.

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted(1): That the Student Government Association of Texas A&M University supports the creation an initiative by the campus administration to reach out to several publishers to implement a direct buy experiment within several departments throughout the university for students to purchase their books directly from the publisher; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted(2): That the colleges of Texas A&M that wish to be a part of this experiment select at random one department from their college to participate in the experiment; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted(3): That a study be implemented through Student Life Studies to compare the cost of textbooks including the ease of purchase between the direct buy publisher and community retail bookstores operating concurrently during the experiment; and,

Let it be

Further


Enacted(4): The length of this experiment be confined to one year to allow for the university to analyze the cost of implementing a possible direct buy relationship with publishers across each college; and,



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Let it be

Further

Enacted(5): That a copy of this legislation be sent to the following faculty members with 5 days of being passed in Senate:

- Texas A&M University President Bowen Loftin
- EVP for Academic Affairs Karen Watson
- Ann Kenimir, Associate Provost For Undergraduate Studies
- Faculty Senate Speaker Dr. Mike Benedict
- The Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee
- The Academic Operations Committee