

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Innovation and Online Committee
January 29, 2020**

SUBJECT: SUS Textbook Affordability Action Plan

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For Information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the August 2019 meeting, the Innovation and Online Committee – and subsequently the full Board – approved the State University System *Action Plan for the Pricing of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials*. The goal of the initiative was to provide students with access to quality and affordable textbooks and other instructional materials, thereby increasing the likelihood of their success in higher education.

The Action Plan described the Board's intent to pursue Letters of Commitment with publishers and university bookstore vendors to ensure that students in the State University System will be paying less for textbooks and other instructional materials than they currently pay, beginning with the 2020 Fall term, and that students throughout the System will be paying consistent prices for the same materials.

The Action Plan also specified the components of the initiative that publishers and vendors would acknowledge and address:

1. Student cost of course materials, including pricing mark-ups by university bookstore vendors, be provided for (a) \$20 or less per credit hour or (b) more than \$20 per credit hour, but at a noticeably lower retail cost than students would otherwise pay;
2. Identifying the format of materials that meet the pricing indicated above as print and/or digital;
3. Student access to materials on the first day of class;
4. Student access to digital materials beyond the end of the course;
5. Students not paying twice for digital access if the course is dropped and taken at a later time;
6. The option for print-on-demand for digital materials;
7. Accessibility for students with disabilities;
8. Bookstore vendors will develop mechanisms for capturing and reporting

faculty use of open education resources, library materials, and other no-cost resources (e.g. generic ISBNs), which will allow these resources to be included in the official booklist and the savings can be captured in the authoritative list;

9. University access to data.

Dr. Lynn Nelson will update the Committee on the receipt of the Letters of Commitment from publishers and bookstore vendors and on other actions taken to further implement the Action Plan.

Governor Shawn Felton will provide his perspective on the impact of the Action Plan on faculty review and consideration of course materials. Governor Felton is Chair of FGCU's Department of Health Sciences, Marieb College of Health & Human Services. He also serves as Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates.

Supporting Documentation Included: None

Facilitators/Presenters: Dr. Lynn Nelson
Governor Shawn Felton