



Joint Media Release

Regents pass recommendations to make textbooks more affordable

June 21, 2007 – At their meeting today in Flagstaff, the Arizona Board of Regents passed a number of recommendations from the Task Force on Textbook Costs.

Last year the Arizona Students' Association approached the Arizona Board of Regents to express concern that students are being affected by the escalating costs of textbooks. In response, Regents Edward Hermes and Gary Stuart formed a task force in September 2006.

Students, faculty, and administrators from Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona who served on the Task Force were asked to identify the key issues affecting increasing costs and make recommendations that would mitigate the impact to students.

The Task Force found that making textbooks more affordable would be best accomplished through a number of steps. Their recommendations to the Board represent the most promising solutions for helping make textbooks more affordable.

Board President Robert Bulla said, "The efforts of this Task Force could become a national model for colleges and universities who are addressing the increasing burden of textbooks and other course-related materials."

Regent Hermes, who is completing his term as Student Regent this month, told the Regents how pleased he is with the results of this project. He said, "I want to recognize all the efforts of the Task Force and staff on this complex problem. Because of their hard work and on-going efforts by the universities, students should see significant savings in the costs of their textbooks relatively soon."

The Task Force conducted a significant amount of research, including a number of surveys, to identify possible solutions. The results of that research confirmed for bookstores, university administrators, faculty, and Regents how significant the impact of textbook costs has become for students.

"We found some opportunities to save costs through better campus collaboration when textbooks are selected," said Regent Gary Stuart.

Tom Wahl, Student Body President at NAU and Task Force member, said, "I am ecstatic about the results from the Task Force. It is extremely rare to see such a diverse group of individuals collaborate on an issue and produce positive results for students in a short period of time. Not only will the Task Force save students money, they showed everyone that Regents, administrators, faculty, and students can work together to mitigate the cost of higher education."

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Contacts: Serena Unrein, Arizona Students Association, 602-908-0451, serena@azstudents.org
Anne Barton, Public Affairs, 602-229-2543, anne.barton@azregents.edu