

STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING TEXTBOOK COSTS TO STUDENTS

Co Chairs

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ABSTRACT

The cost of textbooks is an increasingly important issue to students. The Nevada Board of Regents recently addressed the issue at one of their meetings. Barron's published a recent editorial on the topic and it was even debated on CNN. Popular perception is that book publishers (with the acquiescence of professors) are engaging in price gouging of students. When textbook costs are compared to inflation rates, this appears to be the case. This special session will explore these issues and suggest some coping strategies for students.

Instead of merely complaining about high textbook costs and trying to affix blame, an effective coping approach could include a mix of strategies including:

1. Buying used books
2. Buying new books online
3. Sharing books in some sort of pool
4. Renting books
5. Buying outdated editions
6. Not using books at all

Jack Schibrowsky will introduce the topic and serve as the session moderator. Professor Cross will outline possible student strategies. Professor Nill will add a European perspective, and Mr. Bowman will add insights from the publisher side, including some nuances and pitfalls involved in actually following one of the suggested strategies. Professors Pointer, Peltier, Ball, and Maughan will present non-traditional solutions to the problem.