Resolution Number: RS04-231  
January, 2004

Resolution on the  
Increase in Textbook Prices, #RS04-231

Whereas Research by Public  
Interest Research Groups has shown that the price of college textbooks is  
rising and that students spent as much as 20% more on textbooks in 2003 than  
they spent in 1997, and

Whereas Textbook publishers  
add ancillaries that drive up the price of textbooks and most faculty do not  
use these materials, and

Whereas Textbook publishers put  
ew editions on the market frequently, often with few content changes, making  
the less expensive, used textbooks obsolete and unavailable, and

Whereas 500 Math Professors  
recently signed a “call to action” urging publisher Thompson Learning to  
address student concerns about exorbitant textbook prices, and asking that  
Thompson Learning “continue to publish the current edition of Calculus: Early  
Transcendental until there has been significantly new content in the field of  
calculusâ€“that would justify an update” and

Whereas San Francisco State  
University students are already struggling with tuition and fee increases as  
well as the high cost of living both on campus and in the San Francisco Bay Area,  
and

Whereas Further  
increases in tuition, fees and living costs are mandated or anticipated for  
AY  
2004-2005, and students are faced with increasing costs and decreasing course  
offerings, and

Whereas Alternatives to the  
highest price, most recent edition of many textbooks, when available, present  
little or no sacrifice of educational content or standard; therefore be it

Resolved That the teaching faculty  
of SFSU work in collaboration with the SFSU Bookstore to challenge the  
opportunistic and mercenary publishing practices of the textbook publishers and  
seek to find lower cost alternatives to high priced textbooks and,  
specifically, be it

Resolved That the  
bookstore notify faculty of the price of their chosen textbook and of less  
expensive  
alternatives, and be it further

Resolved That the  
bookstore may reject textbooks that are made available only in their  
“bundled”  
state, and be it further

Resolved That the sentiments expressed here be conveyed to  
the SFSU campus community, to major textbook publishers, to Chancellor Charles  
B. Reed, to ASCSU; to the higher Education Committees of the State Assembly and  
State Senate and to the Governor.

*** Approved by the Academic Senate on April  
27, 2004 ***