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Northeastern University

Student Government Association Senate Legislation

Student Government Association

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Faculty Textbook Agreement

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

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Faculty Textbook Agreement

As approved by the Student Government Association, last updated March 28, 2011.

Students have consistently expressed concerns regarding the high costs and limited accessibility of required course materials.

Students attending Northeastern University are required to obtain textbooks for their classes. Currently, students are presented with limited options for obtaining required course materials -- through renting or sometimes purchasing from the campus bookstore, buying online, or other means. These limitations can be exacerbated by Northeastern-specific editions of textbooks and textbooks that include packaged materials that can be irrelevant to the associated course. Therefore, students are placed in a disadvantageous position in which they are can be asked to spend unnecessarily large amounts of money.

The students of Northeastern University ask their faculty to sign the following agreement, and in doing so, agree to seek and consider the most affordable and sustainable textbook options.

As a faculty member of Northeastern University, I affirm that it is my prerogative and responsibility to select course materials that are pedagogically appropriate for my classes. I also affirm that it is consistent with this principle to seek affordable and accessible course materials for my classes whenever possible.

Therefore, I the undersigned declare my intent to:

1. Seek and consider open textbooks and other publicly available educational resources when choosing course materials.
2. Where appropriate for the pedagogy, give preference to low or no cost educational resources over expensive traditional textbooks.
3. Provide course materials on reserve at the library prior to the start of the term.
4. Not order versions of textbooks with additional packaged materials unless truly integral to the course.
5. Assess material and make students aware of the feasibility of using older editions.
6. Ensure that each course material listed as required is necessary for student success in the course.
7. Place orders by the bookstore deadline to ensure used edition availability.
8. Only move to the new edition of a book when the content has been updated to improve student success in the course objectives.

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____