

DRAFT: To be discussed, amended/edited at 11/30 Advisory Council meeting

To the Academic Senate:

As part of an effort to make college more affordable for students, the State of California is incentivizing colleges to cut the cost of textbooks and course materials for all students. President Nguyen has asked the Advisory Council to make a recommendation on how best to achieve comprehensive reductions in costs for our students. The Advisory Council is mindful that reducing the cost of education is consistent with our college/district equity goals and understands that curriculum and standards regarding student preparedness/success are a matter of faculty primacy in FHDA policy. With this in mind and in order to best respond to President Nguyen's charge to our committee, the Advisory Council requests that the Academic Senate consult with faculty on how to reduce the cost of books and course materials. The Advisory Council asks that the Academic Senate present the faculty recommendations to the Advisory Council by February of 2019. The following should be kept in mind as the Academic Senate discusses this issue:

- Maintaining high standards for all course materials will remain a priority.
- Academic Freedom should be respected.
- The College purchasing large numbers of textbooks is not a viable long-term solution to reducing textbook costs.
- Would faculty incentives be helpful in encouraging progress in our endeavor to lower educational costs? If so, which incentives might work best?
- The Advisory Council will also request feedback from students regarding how best to address the cost of course textbooks/materials.
- In order to make progress in these endeavors, would the Academic Senate support a timeline/bench marks for progress in reducing textbook/course materials costs?

To ASFC:

In an effort to reduce the cost of education for all students, the College Advisory Council asks the students of Foothill College to kindly provide their opinion on how to cut the cost of textbooks and course materials. The Advisory Council asks that the ASFC present the students' recommendations to the Advisory Council by February of 2019.

- Which of the following do students prefer? Low-cost rentals, ebook purchase options, library books, ebook rentals, hard copies purchased in the bookstore...other options?
- Do students prefer to own or rent textbooks?
- Do students factor in textbook/materials costs when they select courses?
- Please include F2F, online, PT, and FT students in this survey
- The Office of Institutional Research can help the ASFC distribute the survey