

Resolution on Default Textbook Assignment

By Bookstore Advisory Committee

WHEREAS, in the spirit of enhancing student preparedness, data showed approximately 25% of instructors at Bakersfield College did not communicate their book and material requirements by the start of classes in Spring 2025, which impacts students' ability to access necessary materials on time; however, we commend the 75% of faculty who did meet this standard, demonstrating their commitment to student success;

WHEREAS, meeting institutional deadlines for ordering books is a professional responsibility under contract article 4 and board policy 3050, and failure to do so places an undue burden on students;

WHEREAS, the timely availability of course materials is crucial for student preparation, academic success, and cost management, as late assignment of textbooks can disadvantage students in both acquiring materials and potentially incurring higher costs;

WHEREAS, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandate that students with disabilities have access to educational materials in a manner comparable to their peers, which necessitates the availability of course materials in advance to allow for necessary modifications like conversion to Braille or other accessible formats (this generally takes up to eight weeks);

WHEREAS, the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 requires institutions to disclose textbook information, including ISBN and retail price, on course schedules for preregistration and registration, ensuring students can utilize various purchasing options like rentals or used books, thereby reducing costs and increasing access;

WHEREAS, AB 607 mandates that colleges are required to provide students with the costs of all materials and fees prior to registration;

WHEREAS, several departments have already adopted the practice of assigning default textbooks, recognizing its benefits for student preparation and program consistency, and a college-wide standard would enhance institutional consistency;

WHEREAS, department chairs are uniquely positioned to select default textbooks that align with departmental standards and course learning outcomes, thereby ensuring all students have access to consistent foundational material from the course's outset;

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate recommends that department chairs, in collaboration with discipline experts, identify a default textbook for any course taught within their discipline for the exclusive purpose of using for any course not assigned a textbook thirty days prior to the first day of a course. Every course will have a default textbook with an ISBN on record with the chair, dean, and BAC by April 1st of every year.