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[1] **Whereas** Students at the University of Texas at Austin will see a 9.6 increase in tuition for the 2006-2007 academic year. [1]

[2] **Whereas** Since statewide tuition deregulation in 2003, tuition and fees have increased 66.5 percent at the University of Texas at Austin, 26.7 percent at Texas A&M University, and 25.7 percent at Texas Tech University. [2] (1)

[3] **Whereas** Over 400,000 of Texas' 1.2 million students receives financial aid. [3]

[4] **Whereas** On average, undergraduate borrowers graduate over \$17,000 in debt and graduate school borrowers finish with over \$65,000 in debt. [4]

[5] **Whereas** College students on average spend \$900 per year on required textbooks. [5]

[6] **Whereas** Since 1994, college textbook prices have increased 62 percent. [6] (2)

[7] **Whereas** In 2002, an eBay.com survey showed that 43 percent of college students have chosen not to purchase required textbooks for at least one course in an effort to save money. [7]

[8] **Whereas**  
Currently 15 states nationwide offer a tax exemption on textbooks. (3)

[9] **Whereas**  
An 8.25 percent sales tax is charged on college textbooks in Texas.

[10] **Whereas**  
Tax Free Textbooks would save Texas students \$40 million each year. [8]

[11] **Whereas**  
Tax Free Textbooks would return more than \$206 million to the Texas economy each year. [9] (4)

[12] **Whereas** That the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin strongly supports efforts by the Texas State Legislature to establish a year round sales tax-exemption on textbooks for college students.

[13] **Whereas** That the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin urges students statewide to work closely with their legislators in abolishing the higher education sales tax on college textbooks.

## Comments

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[1] Daily Texan Online: UT Regents Approve Tuition Increase- March 29, 2006

<http://www.dailytexanonline.com/media/storage/paper410/news/2006/03/29>

[/TopStories/Ut.Regents.Approve.Tuition.Increase-1763279.shtml?](http://www.dailytexanonline.com/media/storage/paper410/news/2006/03/29/TopStories/Ut.Regents.Approve.Tuition.Increase-1763279.shtml?norewrite200604091952&sourcedomain=www.dailytexanonline.com)

[norewrite200604091952&sourcedomain=www.dailytexanonline.com](http://www.dailytexanonline.com/media/storage/paper410/news/2006/03/29/TopStories/Ut.Regents.Approve.Tuition.Increase-1763279.shtml?norewrite200604091952&sourcedomain=www.dailytexanonline.com)

[2] The Chronicle of Higher Education Online/College Board's 2005-6 Annual Survey of Colleges: Facts and Figures

<http://chronicle.com/stats/tuition/>

[3] Student Aid Action: The State Higher Education PIRG's

<http://www.studentaidaction.com>

[4] Student Aid Action: The State Higher Education PIRG's

<http://www.studentaidaction.com>

[5] State Public Interest Research Groups' Ripoff 101, 2nd edition

<http://www.pirg.org/highered/>

[6] State Public Interest Research Groups' Ripoff 101, 2nd edition

<http://www.pirg.org/highered/>

[7] EBay.com/State Public Interest Research Groups' Ripoff 101, 2nd edition

<http://www.pirg.org/highered/>

[8] Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts- April 16, 2006

<http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxbud/revest0607-3rd/>

[9] Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts- April/May 2005

<http://www.window.state.tx.us/fm/statewise/05/04/3.html>

## Footnotes

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(1) In 2003 the Texas Legislature deregulated tuition with the passage of HB 3015. Tuition deregulation granted the University of Texas System Board of Regents the ability to set tuition for UT-Austin. Prior to 2003 the elected members of the Texas Legislature set tuition for Texas public colleges and universities.

(2) Statistic Clarification: A textbook that cost \$1 in 1994 costs \$62 today (on average).

(3) States with a sales and use tax exemption on college textbooks include: Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Wisconsin (and others with tax free weekends). A 2004 study by Morgan Quinto concluded that 7 of the top 10 "smartest" U.S. states have tax free textbooks. Many state legislatures have had bills to make textbooks tax free including: California, Georgia, Illinois, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Washington (and others).

(4) According to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts every \$1 invested in higher education returns \$5.50 to the Texas Economy each year. Tax Free Textbooks is a \$40 million investment in higher education.