

approved by acclimation  
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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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## AR 14 In Support of Textbook Affordability

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### Section 1: Introduction

**WHEREAS** most classes require students to purchase textbooks,

**WHEREAS** college textbook prices have risen by 64% since 1994, quadruple the rate of inflation,<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS** the average college student pays nearly \$900 for textbooks each year,<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS** publishers are not presently required to disclose price information to educators as part of the textbook selection process,

### Section 2: E-Books

**WHEREAS** e-Books are significantly less expensive than hard-copy textbooks and can be offered at less than half the price,<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS** there currently exists no requirement that publishers disclose to educators whether or not a given textbook is available in e-Book form and educators are thus unable to take this factor into account when selecting textbooks for their courses,

### Tax-Free Textbooks:

**WHEREAS** a tax-exemption on textbooks could save students as much as \$280 over the course of four years in college,<sup>4</sup>

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin supports efforts by the Texas Legislature to create a tax holiday during which textbook purchases are exempt from sales tax,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin supports efforts by the Texas Legislature to require publishers to disclose the prices of and the availability of electronic versions for textbooks.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Office of the President, the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Office of the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, the Faculty Council, and the Textbook Advisory Committee of The University of Texas at Austin.

<sup>1</sup> State's Public Interest Research Group, 2006

<sup>2</sup> Government Accountability Office Report, 2006

<sup>3</sup> UT Austin/Wiley Publishers e-Book initiative

<sup>4</sup> Based on average textbook costs of \$900 per student per year and a sales tax rate of 8.25%