

Did you know that nationally college students spend an average of \$900 each year on textbooks and supplies?

Pretty steep — too steep — on top of all the other higher ed expenses students and parents contend with today.

Research shows that with traditional classroom texts the most direct way to cut down on costs is to increase the buy-back market. Used books cost an average of 75 percent of the retail version, so the savings can be significant.

Mississippi's eight public universities are adopting new policies that will increase the availability of used texts and increase transparency related to textbook purchasing.

Help us spread the word on your campus.

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APPRECIATION WEEK



REDUCING THE COST OF **TEXTBOOKS**

New Policies & Future Strategies

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BACKGROUND

You may not be surprised to learn that the effort to reduce the cost of textbooks has been **student-led** from the very beginning!

In 2006, the **Associated Student Body** at the University of Mississippi commissioned a Textbook Task Force to explore ways to reduce costs to students.

The State Institutions of Higher Learning later formed its own task force to follow up.

Flash forward to 2010: **Student government association presidents** from across the state, in collaboration with IHL, drafted new policies that were approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees.

NEW POLICIES

APRIL 1, 2010

- A textbook “**coordinator**” will be named to implement and oversee new textbook policies on your campus.

JUNE 1, 2010

- Each university will finalize new textbook policies that must include:
 - Firm textbook adoption deadlines that, whenever possible, are at least **40 days** before the end of the preceding semester.
 - A requirement that faculty indicate whether a textbook is **required or recommended**, and whether an earlier edition is sufficient.
 - A minimum **three-year** adoption period for most lower division courses.
 - A minimum **two-year** adoption period for most upper division courses.
 - A requirement that the university or bookstore will provide faculty and students with information about textbook pricing and **alternate purchasing options**.
 - Strong encouragement that the same course material be adopted for **all sections** of a course.

JULY 1, 2010

- New federal regulations under the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) are effective. The new state policy includes HEOA regulations.

WHAT'S NEXT

The work doesn't stop with increasing the buy-back market.

Use of the Internet, e-readers and other exciting technologies as teaching tools is on the rise in our university classrooms.

Two subcommittees of the IHL Textbook Task Force, in collaboration with **student government association presidents** from across the state, are meeting now to study these emerging trends and ensure that the textbook policies on your campus meet your needs.

To get involved and share your thoughts on current and future policy issues related to textbooks, e-mail ihlnews@mississippi.edu or visit www.mississippi.edu/ihl.

