

From: Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs <Provost@csusb.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 4:22 PM
To: Faculty <faculty@groups.csusb.edu>
Subject: Follett Equitable Access Pilot Program

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

As you know, the high cost of textbooks presents a challenge for many of our students. National data show that nearly two-thirds of undergraduates do not buy one or more textbooks each term, even though they fear it will harm their grades.

To explore ways to mitigate these challenges, CSUSB will participate in a pilot of the Follett Equitable Access (EA) instructional materials program for all undergraduate students in Fall 2024. The goals of this program are to (1) reduce textbook costs for about 75 percent of our students and (2) ensure that students have access to 100 percent of their assigned textbooks and other instructional materials before the first day of the term.

Information about the program:

- Unless they opt out, all CSUSB undergraduate students will be enrolled in the EA program and receive all their instructional materials for all classes before the start of the fall term.
- Faculty may choose the same textbooks and other instructional materials they choose now: Any book from any publisher.
- The program is “digital first.” Students will receive textbooks in digital format unless they are available only in print format or unless the instructor of record requests print format instead of digital.
- The fee for the EA program is \$21.50 per credit unit, capped at \$322.50 for the term. (There is no charge for more than 15 units.) Students will be billed for the program when they register for fall classes, and student financial aid applies to this EA fee.
- Data indicates that at this price point, about 75 percent of our students will save money on their instructional materials by participating in EA.
- Any undergraduate student may opt out of EA by the fall census (the third week of classes) through a simple online process, in which case the EA fee will be credited to their account.
- The elected representatives of the CSUSB student body, the Associated Students Inc. Board of Directors, approved this EA pilot program in September 2023.

- The Campus Advisory Fee Committee approved the fee for the EA pilot program in March 2024.
- EA was presented twice to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in November 2022 and February 2024 and once to the full Senate in March 2023. [A motion was passed at the latter meeting](#) for the Executive Committee to survey faculty on whether the Follett EA should be adopted, but that survey was never implemented.
- In February 2023, Ashlie Singleton from Follett presented EA to the IT Governance Executive Committee. The ITGEC is responsible for transparently establishing and communicating a campus-wide IT vision that supports our University's mission and goals. The 18-member Executive Committee is composed of representatives from each key campus stakeholder group including faculty, staff, students, and administrators.
- We will survey faculty and students twice during the Fall 2024 term on their experience with and perceived effectiveness of the EA pilot and consider these data in determining whether to continue with the EA program.

For questions regarding the program, please email Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS) Coordinator Dr. Cary Barber (cary.barber@csusb.edu) or AVP for Faculty Development and Chief Academic Technologies Officer Dr. Bradford Owen (bowen@csusb.edu).

Sincerely,
Rafik

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A. Rafik Mohamed, Ph.D.
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