

Resolution SS0708-20

November 14, 2007

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
SEN. BANT

passed 18-3-0

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING AN INCREASE
IN THE USE OF ELECTRONIC RESERVES**

Whereas, Currently many professors require that students purchase pre-bound course packets to access instructional materials;

Whereas, Course packets are currently sold at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore for a price including production and copyright costs and the bookstore markup;

Whereas, Even if there is a change in university course packet vending policy, students will continue to pay for production costs and higher copyright fees than in previous years for course packets based on new university copyright standards;

Whereas, The University Libraries' Electronic Reserves system currently places academic articles online for student access per instructors' request and pays for the related copyright costs;

Whereas, The University Libraries' Course Reserves Department has expressed that they are willing and able to put more of these academic materials on electronic reserves;

Whereas, The University Libraries' Course Reserves Department has expressed that they are willing and able to cover current and future copyright costs for any materials they allow to be placed on E-Reserves;

Whereas, The Academic Affairs Committee surveyed 200 students from each class and received an overall 34 percent response rate;

Whereas, Survey results show that 67.3% of the student body is very dissatisfied with the cost of course packets;

Whereas, The cost of using electronic reserves is only reflected in the printing costs of what students choose to print. By utilizing electronic reserves, students can choose whether or not they want to pay for the convenience of having a hard copy;

Whereas, Survey results show that 70.7% of the student body agrees that "having a pre-bound course packet versus accessing course materials on electronic reserves" is only "not important to somewhat important" demonstrating that even if students prefer course packets, they would not be significantly inconvenienced by a switch to electronic reserves;

Whereas, A survey of faculty who used course packets this semester shows that 73.5% of faculty rate the "Overall value of the [course] packet for the price" as "poor to very poor" while a

majority rated "Overall value of the [course] packet for the price" as the most important factor out of five available choices;

Whereas, Students have demonstrated in their responses to survey questions that price is more important than the convenience of having a pre-bound course packet; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Student Senate respectfully encourages professors, using their own discretion, to choose electronic reserves in place of course packets as their primary medium of providing course materials to students when it seems in the best interests of their students based on the price and convenience of the materials.

Elizabeth C. B. W.
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