



**Faculty Council of Community Colleges
“Inclusive Access” Bookstore Programs
AAC3. 2022-2023
Passed by the FCCC
April 1, 2023**

WHEREAS, campuses, along with their bookstores, have been developing and implementing approaches to charge student fees directly for course materials, claiming a reduction in overall cost (commonly called many names, such as inclusive access, first day complete, box of books, etc) modeled after programs created by book publishers, and

WHEREAS, faculty and students at affected campuses have requested data to substantiate claims that these programs benefit students, and these data have not been received, and

WHEREAS, community college faculty have worked extensively to reduce materials cost by adopting and authoring Open Educational Resources (OER), and

WHEREAS, students’ permanent access to course materials is a central pedagogical matter and these programs typically limit student access to the texts to a semester or two, and

WHEREAS, “faculty are best qualified and should therefore have a primary role, through a sound and well-established governance structure, in the formulation of policy” pertaining to teaching and related academic matters, per the Faculty Council of Community College Resolution “The Role of Faculty in Shared Governance” (2018), which includes course material selection and access, and

WHEREAS, 61% of community college students are using financial aid for their books, and “opt-out” programs that assess book costs per credit as a fee claim these monies without the explicit consent of the student, while current practices for students purchasing books and course materials are “opt-in” and allow students to make clear choices, and

WHEREAS, the implementation of and communication about these fees, including opt-out processes, has been controlled by the bookstores and not the college or faculty, and

WHEREAS, the implementation of inclusive access strategies by publishers may serve to eliminate the used textbook market and may ultimately increase costs for students, and

WHEREAS, examples of failed implementation of these bookstore programs have occurred, which harmed student success and required ending the initiative abruptly, and

WHEREAS, effective implementations that did benefit students should include the following best practices:

- Faculty and student vote via shared governance to endorse or reject the contract with the bookstore
- Clear institutional data should be provided to support the benefits to students
- Ongoing annual shared governance engagement with the bookstore to assess and identify improvements to the program
- Clearly communicated opt-in or opt-out options for both students and faculty
- Book fees are payable by financial aid
- All required course materials (not solely textbooks) should be included where possible (i.e. calculator, lab notebooks and safety equipment, culinary and art kits, etc.)
- Faculty and students can select text format (e-book, hardcover, etc) providing sufficient options for preferences and accessibility needs
- An option to purchase the text is available if the bookstore program is rental-based, and

WHEREAS, auxiliary services corporations are intended to be the “main campus entity representing students and faculty in the management of services” and typically run campus bookstores, and

WHEREAS, SUNY Community College Regulations Part 602.1section (f) states that any contract “for the purpose of operating food-service, bookstore and/or conducting other appropriate auxiliary service activities ... shall provide that the food and bookstore services be provided at the lowest possible cost to the students consistent with sound business and financial practices,” and

WHEREAS, state-operated campus are required to have at least one-third student representation on their auxiliary services corporations, and

WHEREAS, community colleges have no such mandate and are lacking student and faculty voices regarding auxiliary services contracts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SUNY Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) calls upon bookstores and campuses considering these programs to provide data to faculty regarding the potential impacts on students, and

RESOLVED, that academic freedom is essential for student success, and course material policies fall under faculty purview over curriculum; therefore, shared governance procedures apply, and

RESOLVED, that the FCCC recognizes the benefits and value of the used textbook market as a source of low-cost and lasting texts, and

RESOLVED, that the FCCC recognizes that open access course materials are free to students, and new bookstore proposals undermine OER efforts on campus, and

RESOLVED, that the FCCC strongly encourages faculty, students, and colleges to carefully consider the impact of inclusive access and recognize that while such programs may address immediate student needs, they may not work in students’ long-term interest, and

RESOLVED, that the FCCC strongly calls upon local community college Boards of Trustees to require auxiliary services corporations to increase their percentage of student and faculty voices, meeting at minimum the one-third student representation required by state-operated campuses.

ENCLOSURES

[Consider Implications of Publisher-Developed Lower Cost “Inclusive Access” Strategies](#)

[Get the Facts About Inclusive Access, 2023](#)

[SUNY Policy on Auxiliary Services Corporations Guidelines, June 22, 2016](#)

[Community College Regulations Section 602.1 and 602.4](#)