

September 21, 2006

From: Howard Cohen, Chancellor
To: Purdue University Calumet Campus Community
Subject: Textbook Cost and Availability

I want to thank all of you who are expressing concern about issues related to the availability and cost of textbooks for our students. As you may know, last spring a working group on this topic, co-chaired by Professor John Rowan and Assistant Vice Chancellor Mike Kull, issued a report with a number of observations and recommendations for improving the ways in which we handle access to textbooks for our students.

[A copy of that report is available here for those of you who would like to read it.](#)

Additionally, the University Forum is establishing a successor committee, as recommended by the working group, with the following charge:

The Course Materials Advisory Committee is charged to build upon the work of the Chancellor's Working Group on the Cost and Availability of Textbooks and Other Course Materials and, specifically, to act upon Section V, Recommendations of the working group's report. The Advisory Committee is expected to work with academic departments and the campus bookstore on the development of written plans and strategies to improve the affordability and accessibility of course materials for students. Where appropriate, the Advisory Committee should identify policies related to textbook and course material selection that the Purdue University Calumet Faculty Senate should consider for adoption, as well as policies that could be proposed to the campus bookstore.

The committee will be expected to complete its work by early November to permit changes in policy and practice to be in place for the next academic year.

The University Forum is currently seeking faculty, staff and student membership for this committee. If you are interested in serving, please respond to the Chancellor as soon as possible.

I hope we will be able to focus creatively on this pressing issue and make some significant improvements that will improve the teaching/learning process.

