

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL**

DATE: May 24, 2007

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S): Rep. Terry M. Hyman  
Rep. R. C. Pruett

TOPIC OF THE PROPOSAL:

Cost of college and university textbooks

EXPLANATORY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY PROPOSAL:

Study would include but not be limited to textbook costs, rental programs, tax exemptions, e-books, guidelines for faculty.

Additional information is contained in the attached sheets.

IF PRIVATE CITIZENS OR ORGANIZATIONS ARE TO BE NOTIFIED OF MEETING,  
LIST NAMES AND ADDRESSES:

**Susan McVey**  
Director of Libraries  
200 N.E. 18<sup>th</sup>  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

**State Rgents for Higher Education**  
P. O. Box 108850  
655 Research Parkway  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

**Blane Peters**  
Bookstore Manager  
Oklahoma State University  
107 Whitehurst Hall  
Stillwater, OK 74078

**Mark Smith**  
Bokstore Manager  
Rose State College  
6720 Southeast 15<sup>th</sup>  
Midwest City, OK 73110

**Higher Ed Faculty Representatives**

See attached list

**Advisory Committee on Financial Assistance**

Names will be provided

**Student Government Representatives**

Names will be provided

**FILE IN CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER** 07-96

5-25-07 JH

Chancellor Glen D. Johnson  
655 Research Parkway  
Oklahoma City, Ok 73104  
405-225-9122

Dr. Nancy Mergler  
Senior Vice President and Provost  
University of Oklahoma  
405-325-3221

Dr. Marlene Strathe  
OSU Interim President and System CEO  
107 Whitehurst Hall  
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078  
405-744-6384

Dr. Cindy Ross, President  
Cameron University  
2800 W. Gore  
Lawton, Oklahoma 73505  
580-581-2201

Dr. Donnie Nero, President  
Connors State College  
Rt.1 Box 1  
Warner, Oklahoma 74469  
918 -463-6213

Oklahoma House of Representatives  
Interim Study Request

**Issue: Cost of Textbooks**

The issue of textbook cost has gained currency in the past year, not only in higher education professional publications, but also in popular press, such as the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*.

According to a recent GAO Study, the average student spends between \$801 and \$904 per year in textbooks.

*Cost of Books & Supplies in Oklahoma Public Institutions*

- \$1,005 Research Universities
- \$ 852 Regional Universities
- \$ 995 Community Colleges
- \$ 950 Average

The Same GAO study referenced above found:

- College textbook prices have increased at 2X rate of inflation in the last two decades but not as much as tuition
- Costs of instructional supplements explain much of increase in prices
- U.S. college textbook prices may exceed prices in other countries due to market conditions
- In 2005, only 23% of students bought their textbooks online
- Demand for used textbooks is much greater than available supply, which is estimated to be between 25% and 30% of all textbooks on the market

Interim study would include but not be limited to textbook costs, rental programs, tax exemptions, e-books, guidelines for faculty.

Possible Participants:

Students  
Faculty  
Bookstore Managers  
National Advisory Committee of Financial Assistance  
National Association of College Stores  
Association of American Publishers  
Librarians  
OneNet

Add to 96 Hyman

Please add this to the list of those to be notified regarding interim study on Cost of Textbooks:

Mr. Bob Darcy  
Regents Professor Political Science  
Oklahoma State University  
405-744-5641  
[Bob.darcy@okstate.edu](mailto:Bob.darcy@okstate.edu)

Mr. Bruce Hildebrand  
Exec. Director for Higher Education  
American Association of Publishers  
202-347-3375  
[bhildebrand@publishers.org](mailto:bhildebrand@publishers.org)

Mr. Dan Morris  
Regional Manager, Sales & Operations  
Follett Books  
405-773-5431  
[dmorris@fheg.follet.com](mailto:dmorris@fheg.follet.com)

Mr. Ed Schlichenmayer  
Senior Vice President  
National Association of Campus Stores  
1-800-622-7498  
[eschlichenmayer@nacs.org](mailto:eschlichenmayer@nacs.org)

Dr. Sherry Young  
Director, Library  
Regents Council of Academic Librarians  
580-581-2408  
[sherry@cameron.edu](mailto:sherry@cameron.edu)