

## A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED OHIO HOUSE LEGISLATION ON PROPRIETARY TEXTBOOKS

**WHEREAS**, college students need textbooks carefully selected to meet their needs, and college faculty, as experts in their subject areas, are in the best position to judge the differences among texts; and

**WHEREAS**, textbooks written to address the same topic often differ greatly from one another, including differences in how a topic is explained, what material is included or left out, difficulty of the text, illustrations or figures, problem sets, and supporting materials; and

**WHEREAS**, student bodies in Ohio differ greatly across colleges; and

**WHEREAS**, programs or departments sometimes produce their own in-house texts because they are tailored to the needs of their students and are more effective than “canned” assignments or examples from generic texts that do not relate specifically to the needs of their students; and

**WHEREAS**, the prices for faculty- or program-generated texts are often substantially lower than the prices of competing texts; and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio students want to work with top-tier faculty, and attracting these faculty to Ohio universities would be negatively impacted if faculty lacked the academic freedom to select texts; and

**WHEREAS**, recruitment of students to Ohio universities would also be impacted, because students may wish to study with faculty who have written particular texts, and faculty publications are listed on university websites to attract students; and

**WHEREAS**, students already have multiple sources for acquiring textbooks, including rental, libraries, and online vendors;

**THEREFORE**, the University of Cincinnati Faculty Senate does not support legislation restricting proprietary textbooks in Ohio colleges and universities.

Approved by Faculty Senate on December 11, 2014