

## University Policy Impact and Tracking Statement

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposed or Revised Policy Title: Revisions to Textbook Policies in the University Handbook for Appointed Personnel</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Policy Sponsor: Office of the Provost, in collaboration with the Student Affairs Policy Committee of the Faculty Senate</b></p>
<p><b>Senior Leadership Review Dates:</b> This policy has been discussed in Provost's Council, with the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee, with the DRC, Academic Personnel Policy, the Disability Resource Center, the University Book Stores, Deans' Council. Once they are approved by the Faculty Senate, they will be sent to the President's Office.</p>
<p><b>Publication Dates:</b> <i>Lo Que Pasa</i> - Forthcoming <i>UAnnounce</i> - Forthcoming <b>Other</b> – Emails to all faculty, heads and deans</p>

### Policy description:

#### **Revisions of Textbook Policies in the University Handbook for Appointed Personnel**

### Reason for new policy or revision:

Custom publishing and subscription databases have changed the landscape of college textbooks, and created conflict of interest concerns about the profits that can be generated by creating textbooks for particular courses that students are required to buy and may not be able to sell back. The proposed policies address this concern in a way that protects the rights of faculty members and other instructors to adopt the best possible texts while also attending to the high costs of textbooks can create hidden access barriers for UA students.

### Major impacts to University and potential stakeholders:

The proposed revisions to our textbook policies will provide more guidance to colleges and faculty and other instructors to consider potential conflicts of interest. The policies will also encourage the use of affordable and accessible alternatives to help reduce costs to students.

### Anticipated concerns or objections:

Some faculty and instructors have produced textbooks that have been peer reviewed and competitively adopted at other institutions, and those faculty and instructors may feel they are entitled to earn royalties from their students here at UA. Other faculty and instructors have created custom-published textbooks that generate significant royalties and will argue that they have done the work to earn those royalties. Colleges currently have the responsibility to review such adoptions, but such reviews have not always been done and some faculty and instructors may not know that such oversight is required.

**Estimate and description of financial cost to implement, if any:** None

**Will the policy affect any of the following?**

- |                       |   |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| Existing UA Policy    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Compliance with federal law/regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Existing UA Procedure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Compliance with state law/regulations   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Existing Board Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | General Public                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

**Describe any item checked “yes”:**

The proposed revisions will update textbook policies to attend to the rising costs of texts, the rights of faculty and instructors to adopt the best textbooks for classes, and the conflicts of interest that arise when faculty and instructors require a textbook from which they receive royalties.