



ASM
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ASM PASSES LEGISLATION TO REDUCE TEXTBOOK COST

MADISON WI-- Associated Students of Madison passed legislation to reduce the weight of textbook costs on students at their Student Council meeting Tuesday night. It is proposed that the University adopts a pilot program for online textbooks that will be accessible through Canvas. The legislation states that savings of switching to an online textbook program are expected to be between 60%- 80% per textbook.

Alex Hader, Chair of Equity and Inclusion Committee, is hoping to work with the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning's office to bring this to UW-Madison in the spring semester of 2018.

"ASM has been working towards affordable textbooks for a long time as it is an issue that continually impacts all students. I am hoping that this pilot is a step in the right direction towards making textbooks accessible to all students to keep education a priority for the university" Hader said.

ASM strives to have textbook billed in addition to tuition through the Bursar's office, so that financial aid can also apply to textbooks. Students would be able to opt-out of paying through the Bursar's office, to accommodate for purchasing used textbooks or hard copies.

An advantage of this program is that students would know the textbooks required for classes upon registration, according to Shared Governance Campaign Director, Jacqueline Beaulieu.

"Currently, professors do not release textbook information until the end of the summer or even as late as syllabus week. Students want to know the textbooks they will be using in class prior to registration, to get an understanding about the external costs of attendance" Beaulieu said.

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