



Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

December 6, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Ward Beyermann, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy

Re: First Day Complete, Equitable Access Program

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) reviewed the First Day Complete, Equitable Access Program at their December 1, 2023 meeting and were not supportive of the program for several reasons. The Committee noted a concern with the opt-out option as the default and recommends that students should opt-in to the program instead so that they are not charged for a program they might not utilize. Additionally, the Committee was skeptical about the validity of data in the proposal and was concerned with the affordability of this program. The nearly \$300 fee for a student taking 15 units seemed excessive in comparison to what most students are now paying based on the experience of the committee's members. This seems to be supported by the survey included with the proposal on page two of the Textbook Access & Affordability Survey, which shows 90% of the students are now paying less than \$300 on textbooks and course materials. Instead, UCR should evaluate alternative options that provides students with greater cost savings and benefits, including reevaluating the partnership with Barnes and Noble regarding the management of the bookstore.