



## *Academic Senate*

### **COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

November 30, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: David Weisbart, Chair  
International Education

Re: **(Proposal) First Day Complete (FDC), an Equitable Access (EA) Program**

The Committee on International Education reviewed the First Day Complete (FDC), an Equitable Access (EA) Program proposal. The committee recognizes and appreciates the efforts of Auxiliary Services to prepare the First Day Complete (FDC) program proposal and recognizes that the program could benefit a portion of the students on our campus by reducing their overall expenses on textbooks. The program will also allow students to have all their required books by the first day of their registered classes, which seems to be another merit.

The committee has some additional comments and concerns pertaining to the proposal.

#### **Concerns:**

(1) The committee questions the sustainability of the projected commission on books. Based on the Textbook Access & Affordability Survey conducted in 2023, it seems that the program will benefit only 20% of our students.

(2) The committee is concerned that the program does not recognize that students can make use of a used book market that can significantly decrease textbook costs. Students should be made aware of such options.

(3) Fundamentally, the FDC program seems to be a push in the wrong direction for our students. The substantial amount of freely available resources supports the efforts of instructors to utilize such resources rather than commercial products.

#### **Comments:**

(1) If the campus will move forward with FDC, then it is critical to retain the opt-in opt-out process for students and ensure that students are aware of the ability to opt out.

(2) If the program is implemented, then instructors will need to be provided a clear and concise explanation of FDC options for their courses that they can share with their students in their

course syllabi.

(3) It is necessary to lock in an agreement that caps annual or quarterly rate increases.

(4) The abbreviation EqA or an alternative should be used instead of EA to reduce confusion between Equitable Access and Education Abroad.