


COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

November 30, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Gareth Funning, Chair 
Committee on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Re: [Campus Review] Proposal: First Day Complete (FDC), an Equitable Access (EA) Program

The Committee on Diversity Equity and Inclusion discussed the proposed First Day Complete (FDC), an Equitable Access (EA) Program with UCR's current bookstore partners, Barnes & Noble (B & N). The Committee commented on the potential value and benefits of the proposal, especially for students on financial aid. The Committee, however, noted the following concerns and considerations for further review if the program is implemented:

- The FDC effectively rents required books. Students will need to return all the materials by the end of the quarter (Page 17). It also doesn't cover *consumable* materials that cannot be returned. The survey didn't seem to make this distinction when asking students about their expenses so the projected savings might be inflated.
- Faculty will need to be educated about the proposed program. Some faculty might be encouraged to make more materials 'required' knowing that this program is available.
- Uncertainty if the proposed program has a significant impact on equity given the UCR student population. The campus should ensure increased equity by removing or decreasing the cost of textbooks substantially.
- Reconsider changing the default to "opt-in" to ensure that low-income students are not inadvertently impacted by the default to participate. Additionally, not all majors utilize high priced textbooks which may cause some students to incur a higher cost than without the program.
- The proposed program is based on a per-unit charge, which effectively penalizes students who take more units. UCR students need to take 15 units per quarter to graduate in 4 years, and raising obstacles that could discourage taking more classes per quarter may be counterproductive.