



Academic Senate

GRADUATE COUNCIL

November 17, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Sarita See, Vice Chair
Graduate Council

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

Graduate Council reviewed the proposal for First Day Complete, an Equitable Access Program at their November 16, 2023 meeting. The Council had concerns about students' ability to opt-out of the program as this was not detailed in the proposal. We see that there is a reference to the existence of an opt-out option, but we are concerned that the option be sufficiently visible and available — in actual practice — to students. Students should have the option to shop around for cheaper textbooks; and they should not be subject to a monopoly. How does the opt-out process work, and which unit on campus will be responsible for handling this for students? We also want confirmation that this promise of “inclusive access” or “equitable access” actually delivers on inclusivity and access. We understand that these programs tend to focus substantially on digital materials delivery and may be in direct competition with secondhand or used print textbook companies/platforms. For example, we understand that digital versions of textbooks can be more expensive — and not cheaper — than used print textbooks.