Committee on Information Technology

November 28, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
        Riverside Division

From: Ilya Brookwell, Chair
        Committee on Information Technology

Re: 22-23. CR. First Day Complete (FDC), and Equitable Access (EA) Program

On behalf of the Information Technology (IT) Committee, I would like to offer a few key comments regarding the First Day Complete (FDC) proposal. Our committee members discussed the proposal on November 16th, and we share the following concerns:

1. We are troubled by the lack of a more robust analysis covering alternative bookstore options as well as different distribution models.
2. ITS acknowledges that the backend of these efforts will be a net benefit for student access, especially given the option for digital distribution of texts. However, we are concerned that the opt-out process may develop as a critical failure point both for students and for administrators.
3. The instructional needs of faculty differ across departments and schools. We would like to see more evidence and reporting on students studying in different areas and how this proposal will enable and **constrain** materials acquisition for a variety of different majors.

Considering these items, the committee suggests that any implementation of FDC should be carried out with a high level of scrutiny. We should see an annual report on costs to students as well as profits to the bookstore and university. We should also monitor closely the future trend on the opt-out rate as well as any increases to the per unit cost of $19.50. Finally, students deserve a high level of transparency on this program. We should increase visibility through clear marketing and communication. Students need to understand what they are paying for and how they can benefit.