

Minutes of the August 12, 2005 Meeting
of the Board of Governors'
Subcommittee Studying the Cost of Textbooks

The Subcommittee Studying the Cost of Textbooks met in Conference Room B of the General Administration Building in Chapel Hill on Friday, August 12, 2005, at 8:15 a.m.

Subcommittee members in attendance were Mr. Ray S. Farris, Mr. Peter D. Hans, and Mr. Benjamin S. Ruffin. Board member Willie J. Gilchrist, Faculty Assembly Chair Brenda Killingsworth, and Zack Wynne, President of the Association of Student Governments, were in attendance as well as staff from the Office of the President.

Chairman Hans convened the meeting and offered opening remarks. He then called upon Vice President Jeff Davies to discuss campus responses received from questions sent to the Chief Finance Officers. The campus responses had been distributed earlier to the Committee. Vice President Davies had gathered information from the campuses identifying which campus bookstores were outsourced and which were campus operated; whether campus bookstores were non-profit or for profit; how bookstore profits were used; which campuses had buy-back policies; which campuses had rental policies; the cost of a textbook in introductory courses compared across campuses; and the bundling of textbooks along with CD's and other items. Questions were answered and ideas suggested throughout the presentation.

One idea was to ensure that faculty turned in their orders on time for each semester. This topic would also be on the Faculty Assembly agenda for September 16. Another idea suggested bookstore managers buy together since larger orders might generate reduced prices. A few bookstore managers would be asked to present to the committee at the September meeting. Chairman Hans asked Vice President Mabe, Dr. Killingsworth, and Mr. Wynne to submit a draft of best practices for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Peter D. Hans
Chairman, Subcommittee Studying the Cost of Textbooks