

A Resolution to Implement Course Marking at UCLA

WHEREAS course marking is a practice that requires that the cost of class course materials be posted to the registrar at the time of enrollment; and,

WHEREAS course marking is a widely used system adopted by various institutions and states across the nation following the federal Higher Education Opportunity Act (2008), which requires course material transparency¹; and,

WHEREAS institutions such as the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Kansas State University, and Pittsburg State University in Kansas have implemented course marking in their systems, marking low and zero-cost materials²³; and,

WHEREAS Oregon, California, Washington, Texas, Colorado, Virginia, and Louisiana have all passed course marking legislation that requires public universities to mark classes as low or zero cost at the time of enrollment⁴; and,

WHEREAS in California, SB 1359⁵ (2017) requires the California State University and California Community College systems to mark low and zero-cost classes, with a strong recommendation for the University of California to follow suit; and,

WHEREAS in the six years since the passage of SB 1359, the university has yet to move forward with the course marking recommendation, despite the dedication and efforts of our faculty and instructors in taking the initiative to support open education through the creation and adoption of OERs and affordable course materials, and support from the UCLA Library through its affordability initiative; and,

WHEREAS the proposed bill AB 2624⁶ would require California State Universities and California Community Colleges - and strongly recommend to the UC system - to further publish the estimated cost of courses at the time of enrollment; and,

WHEREAS the University of California Los Angeles has missions, principles, and values that “value open access to information” and “strive for excellence and diversity.”⁷; and,

¹ [Higher Education Opportunity Act - 2008](#)

² [Homepage | Marking Affordable Courses at KU](#)

³ [Course Marking | UTRGV](#)

⁴ [University of Idaho Library | Course Marking \(uidaho.edu\)](#)

⁵ [Bill Text - SB-1359 Public postsecondary education: course materials.](#)

⁶ [Bill Text - AB-2624 Public postsecondary education: course materials.](#)

⁷ [Our Vision, Mission, Principles and Values Statement | UCLA | UCLA](#)

WHEREAS as a public institution that prides itself on access to information and excellence, UCLA should take a stand on this issue and set the standard for higher education as a whole; and,

WHEREAS at the University of California Los Angeles, 27% of the undergraduate population are Pell Grant recipients,⁸ meaning these students display “exceptional financial need”⁹; and,

WHEREAS students do not know the cost of course materials at enrollment; and,

WHEREAS this unexpected cost may pose a significant financial burden; and,

WHEREAS course marking relieves financial stress, empowers students, and improves UCLA’s financial transparency by allowing students to choose classes based on affordability; and,

WHEREAS the implementation of course marking would require faculty to submit their course materials for a certain quarter to the Registrar by a deadline that precedes enrollment for that quarter; and,

WHEREAS the Registrar’s Office has confirmed they can support the implementation of course marking¹⁰; and,

WHEREAS the 2023 - 2024 Undergraduate Student Association Council (USAC) has already signed onto a letter in support of the implementation of course marking at the University of California Los Angeles¹¹;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT USAC requests the implementation of course marking at UCLA; and,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT USAC requests the Registrar’s Office ensure faculty are aware of this change and the need to submit their course materials by a specific deadline; and,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT USAC requests the endorsement of the Undergraduate Council of the Academic Senate to implement this change.

⁸ [Our University’s Facts and Figures at a Glance | UCLA | UCLA](#)

⁹ [Federal Pell Grant Program](#)

¹⁰ [Course Marking for USAC AAC](#)

¹¹ [Course Marking Sign-On](#)