


MEMORANDUM

Code: AA-2008-10

Date: February 29, 2008
To: Directors of Institutional Research
From: Philip Garica
Senior Director, Analytic Studies 
Subject: Textbook Affordability Survey

The Bureau of State Audit (BSA) has a mandate to survey undergraduate students at California colleges and universities about textbook affordability. The administration is set for spring 2008. The survey will be web-based. The instrument will consist of 16 questions (see attachment B) plus an additional question about unit load.

As was the case with the SEARS survey, The Chancellors Office will facilitate the collection of CSU data, but campuses will be responsible for generating the sample of CSU students and the corresponding contact information. The timeline for initiating the survey is very short: March 5, 2008 to March 21, 2008. The total sample size for the CSU is 10,650 undergraduate students. The sampling plan is for each CSU campus to contribute its proportionate number of undergraduate students based on fall 2007 system-wide enrollment (see Attachment A). The smallest campus sub sample is set at 25 undergraduates; the largest is 940 undergraduates.

Campus should use their own programming tools to create the sample, but the following two guidelines should be part of the selection process:

- The sampling frame is all enrolled undergraduates in spring 2008
- The sampling process assigns random numbers to each unit and then selects the required number of units based on an accept/reject criterion

After completing the selection process, campuses should send The Chancellor's Office a text file containing student identifiers (i.e., first name, middle initial, last name) and contact information (i.e., email address) for all the selected students. We also would like SSNs for internal use only. The table below displays the record format:

Variable	Position	Length
ID Number	1-9	9
Last Name	10-28	19
First Name	29-39	11
Initial	40	1
E-mail Address	41-106	65
Campus Code	107	2

Data should be left-justified and unused bytes should be space-filled. The extract file should have the filename 'asdxx01.TextB08.sample' (where xx=the two digit campus specific code). Please place the extract file in the SEARS folder that already exists on your FTP account on Carina by Friday, March 21, 2008. An earlier submission will be appreciated. The Chancellor's Office will compile the student information from each campus and forward it to the BSA. Waddell Herron will serve as the point person for the Chancellor's Office. He can be reached at 562.951.4755 or wherron@calstate.edu. If there are foreseeable problems, please contact him immediately.

PG/gt

CC: Provosts and Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs
Vice Presidents for Student Affairs
Executive Vice Chancellor / CAO Gary W. Reichard
Associate Vice Chancellor, Keith O. Boyum
Chancellor's Office Staff:
Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi
Waddell Herron
Larry Mandell

Attachments

Attachment A. Sample Size for Textbook Affordability Study.

Campus	Population	Sample Size
Bakersfield	6065	180
Channel Islands	3289	98
Chico	15527	461
Dominguez Hills	8774	261
East Bay	9610	286
Fresno	19191	570
Fullerton	31673	940
Humboldt	6760	201
Intl Programs	594	18
Long Beach	30605	909
Los Angeles	15727	467
Maritime Academy	834	25
Monterey Bay	3619	108
Northridge	29484	875
Pomona	19569	581
Sacramento	23724	705
San Bernardino	13311	396
San Diego	30460	904
San Francisco	24376	724
San Jose	23808	707
San Luis Obispo	18842	560
San Marcos	8045	239
Sonoma	7606	226
Stanislaus	7038	209
Grand Total	358531	10650

Textbook Affordability Survey

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CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR Bureau of State Audits

Textbook Affordability Survey

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee has asked the Bureau of State Audits to review textbook affordability in California's public universities and colleges. As a part of this review, the bureau is conducting a student survey to determine the manner in which students are dealing with increasing textbook costs. Thank you for participating; the survey should take less than ten minutes of your time.

*** 1. Please enter your email address. (Use the email at which you received this link.)**

All personal information and responses shall remain confidential. Your email address will be used only to identify and remove any duplicate responses. The California State Auditor will report on aggregate data only, and will neither share nor report on any individual data.

*** 2. What is your major?**

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Biology (General/Integrative) | <input type="radio"/> Education | <input type="radio"/> Nursing |
| <input type="radio"/> Biology (Molecular/Cellular) | <input type="radio"/> Electrical Engineering and Computer Science | <input type="radio"/> Physical Education |
| <input type="radio"/> Business Administration | <input type="radio"/> English | <input type="radio"/> Political Science |
| <input type="radio"/> Civil Engineering | <input type="radio"/> Foreign Language/Literature | <input type="radio"/> Psychology |
| <input type="radio"/> Communications/Journalism | <input type="radio"/> History | <input type="radio"/> Sociology |
| <input type="radio"/> Computer Science | <input type="radio"/> Liberal Arts/Liberal Studies | <input type="radio"/> Undeclared |
| <input type="radio"/> Criminology | <input type="radio"/> Mathematics or Statistics | <input type="radio"/> Visual or Performance Arts |
| <input type="radio"/> Economics | <input type="radio"/> Mechanical Engineering | |
| <input type="radio"/> Other or Multiple Majors | | |

*** 3. For Fall 2007, how many courses did you complete?**

Fall 2007 Number of Courses

*** 4. What is your current class level?**

- First Year student
 Second Year student
 Third Year student
 Fourth Year student
 Fifth Year (or more) student

*** 5. Have differences in the textbook costs for various majors affected your ultimate choice in major?**

- No
 Yes

6. Please enter which major you chose not to pursue because of high textbook costs.

*** 7. Has the cost of textbooks caused you to take fewer units during one or more terms?**

- No
 Yes

8. Please enter the NUMBER OF TERMS during which you decided to take fewer units.

9. What strategies for buying and selling textbooks have you used in order to deal with high textbook costs? (Check all that apply)

- Buying used books at the campus bookstore.
 Buying books online (from sources other than the campus bookstore's website).
 Sharing books with classmates.
 Buying the electronic version of a book.
 Not buying the required books for one or more courses.
 Renting books through an on-campus rental program.
 Using a reserve copy in the library.
 Selling books back to the campus bookstore.
 Selling books online.
 Buying and selling books directly with other students.

10. During the Fall 2007 term, how much did you receive from selling your textbooks back to the bookstore, directly to other students, or online? (Please estimate to the nearest whole dollar, and enter a whole number)

*** 11. How has the cost of textbooks affected your lifestyle? (Check all that apply)**

- Becoming employed, or working more hours.
 Spending less money on living expenses such as food, entertainment or rent.
 Increasing student loans.
 Textbook costs do not impact my lifestyle.
 Other (please specify)

*** 12. Have you been required to purchase textbooks that have not been used during the class?**

- No
 Yes. Please enter the number of classes.

*** 13. Have you had to purchase additional items because they were bundled with a required textbook, (such as CD ROMs, workbooks, and pass codes for access to online material), that were not used during the class?**

No.

Yes. Please enter the number of classes.

*** 14. Have you ever filed a complaint against your instructor or school on issues related to textbooks (such as price or bundling practices)?**

No

Yes

15. Please briefly describe your complaint and any outcome.

*** 16. Estimate the gross amount of money you spent on textbooks during the Fall 2007 term (please provide an estimate for textbook purchases only, to the nearest whole dollar).**

Thank you for completing this survey.

If you have any questions about this survey, or would like to add additional information, please contact

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Bureau of State Audits

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