

Textbook Services for Student Veterans

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Research and participant discussions highlighted the following:

- The need for textbook assistance for veteran students often surfaces at the beginning of a new semester if there is a delay in the distribution of veteran's benefits.
- There is a critical need for students to have textbooks as of the first day/week of their classes.
- Funds may be provided through the Foundation to begin purchasing typical textbooks for GE classes, Math and English. Foundation funds can be used for a one-time purchase of textbooks but not on an ongoing basis. Donations can also be solicited as a way to increase the size of textbook selection.
- For veteran students that have not received their benefit checks, they can be allowed to check out textbooks at the beginning of the semester, with the anticipated return of the books later in the semester (i.e. within a month) after they receive their VA benefits and are able to purchase their own textbooks.
- An example of this type of system was developed at a four year university that has accumulated over 600 textbooks that have been donated over a period of years.
- The establishment of a rental (for pay) program specifically for veteran students still comes at a cost, which would be prohibitive for the Foundation.

Based on the above information, the group recommends the following:

- Investigate which classes our veteran students typically enroll in. Are there specific programs that draw higher enrollments with these students? Are there common GE or basic skills courses that attract these students? Create a list of the most popular classes that student veterans enroll in.
- Based on this class list, identify the textbooks and related costs that are typically required for these classes.
- Provide this information to the Foundation Office to kick off a year-long funding drive. The goal would be to be able to purchase multiple copies of these textbook selections; for example, purchase 3 copies of 50 different textbooks.
- Advertise to student veterans that they can borrow these textbooks for the first month of classes, with the expectation of returning the books and purchasing their own copies after receiving their benefit checks.
- As textbook editions change, the Foundation can gradually afford to pay for the replacement of the original (3) copies of a given textbook, a funding level that can be sustainable.