The Office of the Provost has instituted a Textbook Policy in accord with Massachusetts Ethics Commission GL.c.268A, § 6. As such, faculty may not assign a textbook to their students that they have written and receive royalties or other financial benefits from the purchase of those textbooks by UML students, unless they receive written approval from their appointing authority to do so.

Provost approval will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and will only be approved if:

- The faculty member makes a good faith effort to remove the “financial benefit” conflict of interest by making a donation to an approved student fund of that portion of royalties they estimate will be derived from the UMass student purchase.
- The donation should be determined by the estimated royalty per unit book they are to receive from the publisher, and the number of UML students enrolled in the course(s) for which the textbook is assigned.
- Examples of an appropriate UML student assistance fund includes: funds to provide financial assistance for student textbook purchases, provide meal plan assistance, or relieve financial holds that are impediments to retention.
- The faculty member completes the Textbook Disclosure Form at least one month prior to the textbook selection deadline.
- The Textbook Disclosure Form must justify why the textbook selection is an appropriate reference material to support student learning, comparable to or superior to options on the market.
- A committee of “disinterested” faculty peers, appointed by the Provost, concurs that the textbook is a pedagogically-appropriate choice, comparable to or superior to options on the market.

Under no circumstances may a faculty member sell academic materials directly to students.

Faculty are encouraged to promote the sale of all textbooks and classroom materials through the UMass Lowell River Hawk Shop (bookstore) which will match the price of textbooks found at a lower price through other vendors.

Details on program can be found at: [http://www.bkstr.com/umass-lowellstore/shop/books/information-529756--1/price-match-guarantee](http://www.bkstr.com/umass-lowellstore/shop/books/information-529756--1/price-match-guarantee)