

STUDENT SPEAK

How do you feel about books being included in tuition?



**Maiya Maldondo**  
Education Major

"If my books were already paid for with my classes, that would be less for me to worry about starting each semester, the convenience of this idea makes sense."



**Luis Ibarra**  
Engineering Major

"It's a good conversation to have because school is expensive. There is lot to pay for out-of-pocket and keep tabs on. Books off the expense list would be less to worry about."



**Jeremy Gonzales**  
Graphic Design Animation

"The struggle is real in between the financial funding gap. So, if there are extras to pay sometimes you have to go without the book, guide or on-line service for the class. So, having that already provided for you would be ideal. It only takes a minute to get behind, so having the book from the start - awesome."



**Sophia Velasquez**  
Radiography

"Books being a part of tuition is a good thing for students who can't afford the extra costs on top of tuition."



**Rayna Nava**  
Nursing

"Books being paid for with tuition would be dream come true. As a nursing student, school is very demanding of my time, so having to worry about how to pay for books is a distraction."



Illustration by WILLIAM NILES | The Ranger

No-cost books aren't better

EDITORIAL

For many college students in the United States, paying an exorbitant amount of money for textbooks is seen as an unfortunate right of passage in the pursuit of higher education. It has become normalized for students to be responsible for the cost of books and materials required to be successful in their courses.

As students are responsible for tuition and fees associated with a course, many question why the cost of textbooks are not included in tuition considering their necessity. Furthermore, college bookstores are frequently criticized for buying used textbooks back from students for unfairly low prices, only to sell them to a new crop of students at a premium.

Not to mention, the impact this textbook system has on students receiving financial aid and scholarships, whose books are only covered by those funds should they purchase them through

their campus bookstore.

On Aug. 24, West Texas A&M University's president announced their plans to relieve students of textbook-related costs starting in the fall 2024 semester.

With the national annual cost of textbooks averaging \$1,200 per student, the intention is to make classes more affordable for students. Going forward, university resources will be used to provide textbooks required for any course.

It sounds great, but if you think about it from a broader perspective, having books separate from tuition benefits both students and the school. The college bookstore makes money from students paying for textbooks with scholarships, financial aid or out-of-pocket. Meanwhile, students are able to choose where, when and how they get their books should the bookstore not have them in stock, or more affordable

alternatives are available.

The biggest issue with this is that scholarships typically do not cover books that aren't purchased from the college bookstore, and financial aid takes up to two weeks after school starts to be distributed to students. This creates a problem for students if the book is out of stock in the bookstore; the student has to pay out-of-pocket and may not get reimbursement from their scholarship.

These issues are minor compared to the multitude of problems that may arise should they decide to include the cost of books with tuition. Students would only be able to get books from the college bookstore at premium prices, and if the bookstore was out of stock, students would still have to pay out-of-pocket to get them elsewhere, making it pointless for the cost to be included in tuition. So, it's better to leave things as they are.

Dicey debate: Just let it roll

OPINION

In the world of "Dungeons and Dragons" there are two types of players; players who believe that you only need two to three sets of dice and players who collect dice and are known in the community as 'dice goblins.' Dice goblins hoard as many dice sets as they can get their hands on. I'm in the dice goblin category.

Sets of dice can range from single-color resin to hefty metal and everything in between. A standard set of dice for DND contains 7 individual die: D4, D6, D8, D10, Percentile Die, D12 and D20. Most rolls in the game are made with the D20 but all play an important part in the game.

Now here's where the debate comes into the

conversation: some people believe that buying more than two or three sets is a waste of money when you truly won't need all of those dice. I can agree that you will truly never use all of the dice you collect, but the act of collecting dice is special for everyone.

Some DND enthusiasts collect dice for each character they play. Others simply find a new set that they fall in love with and can't live without. I personally have a collection of around 10 sets and interchange them for certain characters during a session. I also collect dice sets that I find interesting. I bought some of them because of the resin color and others because of the special typeface the numbers are written in.

At the end of the day, I collect dice sets not because I feel that I need all of these sets to play the game but because it helps me connect to the game more. In a game like DND, imagination is key and for me dice help me stay in the mindset of the game. In turn fuels a greater gaming experience, for not only me, but everyone at the table.

If a player feels that only a small amount of sets will make them happy, then that's fine. But, I don't see a reason to confront someone about how many sets they have. In the end, we all enjoy the game and for me collecting dice is just a small cog in the greater clock that is my love for the game.

The Ranger

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