



RIVERS STATE UNIVERSITY
NKPOLU-OROWORUKWO, PORT HARCOURT

**UPDATED POLICY OF BAN ON COMPULSORY SALE OF HANDOUTS,
TEXTBOOKS AND LABORATORY MANUALS TO STUDENTS**

The ban on the compulsory sale of handouts and textbooks is still in force in the University.

Senate at the 104th Regular Meeting held on Thursday, 27th July, 2000, and the 107th Meeting held on 30 November, 2002 considered issues before it, including the compulsory sale of handouts, course-based textbooks and laboratory/practical manuals to students and decided that:

- (a) The compulsory sale of handouts, course-based textbooks and laboratory manuals should be banned in the University. The habit of some lecturers to attach the submission of assignments as a pre-requisite to compel students to buy handouts and textbooks was also banned;
- (b) Any lecturer found contravening the ban shall be suspended by the Vice-Chancellor, and thereafter, the suspension shall be reported to the Governing Council of the University;
- (c) A 3-5 Member Task Force shall be constituted to monitor the implementation of Senate decision on the matter;
- (d) The University shall purchase twenty or more copies of recommended textbooks by lecturers to be deposited in the main/departmental library for the benefit of students who may have no money to buy such texts;
- (e) Student collaborators in the sale of handouts, course-based textbooks and laboratory manuals shall be subject to disciplinary measures in accordance with sanctions as prescribed by Senate;
- (f) The Registrar and Secretary to Senate should announce the ban on the compulsory sale of handouts and textbooks on radio and television for the information of staff and students of the University.

Further to the above decisions of Senate, the Vice-Chancellor inaugurated an Ad-Hoc Committee on Handouts and Textbooks on the 29th of July, 2002 to implement

Senate decision on the subject. The Ad-Hoc Committee was given the following terms of reference:

- (i) To identify lecturers who compel students to buy textbooks and handouts;
- (ii) To forward the names of such lecturers to the Vice-Chancellor for appropriate disciplinary actions;
- (iii) To examine Senate decision prohibiting the compulsory sale of handouts and textbooks and to make recommendations on the implementation of the decisions;
- (iv) To consider any matters related to the compulsory sale of handouts and textbooks that may be referred to it by the Vice-Chancellor;
- (v) Students should be sensitized to report staff who sell handouts and textbooks. The Administration should protect the identity of students who make such reports.
- (vi) The University should devise a questionnaire to elicit information from students on sale of handouts and textbooks; and
- (vii) The administration should issue circulars to staff reinforcing Senate decision on the compulsory sale of handouts and textbooks in the University.

Senate at its 231st Regular Meeting held on Thursday, 28th July, 2016, re-enforced the ban on compulsory sale of handouts, textbooks and Laboratory Manuals to students and decided that only Faculty approved Textbooks and Laboratory Manuals shall be purchased by students at Faculty approved prices.

Consequently, Senate decided that:

1. Cost of textbooks should be determined by the Faculty.
2. Term papers should constitute one third of continuous Assessment (CA) and should not attract payments from students.
3. Deans should constitute Monitoring Committees in their respective Faculties to apprehend and report offenders and that any Dean who refused to do so should be disciplined.
4. The Registrar should re-present the form on evaluation of teaching effectiveness to Senate for re-consideration.
5. The Registrar should send a circular to students, directing them not to pay money to any lecturer and advising them to report erring lecturers requesting for money from them to the Vice-Chancellor.

As directed by Senate, a notice was circulated to all students by the Registrar on the subject, on August 18, 2016, that:

1. Henceforth no student should pay money to any lecturer for handouts, software and term paper.
2. No student should pay money to any lecturer to obtain marks or alter grades.
3. All students are directed to report to the Vice-Chancellor for necessary action, any lecturer who demands money from them for marks or coerces them to purchase handouts, textbooks, software, etc.

In a renewed effort to enforce the ban on the compulsory sale of books and other materials to students and consequent upon the commissioning of the Rivers State University Bookshop in the 2020/2021 academic session, Senate in its 285th Meeting of Thursday, 31st March, 2022 resolved that:

1. No books or reading materials should be sold directly to students.
2. All lecturers should deposit copies of their books with the University Bookshop and inform their students to purchase them from the shop.
3. The Committee on Academic Ethics Enforcement should also help in bringing to book all defaulters.
4. Deans of Faculty and Heads of Department are requested to assist enforce this rule of the University.
5. Staff who indulge in direct sales of books and other materials should face disciplinary action after an initial warning.

As part of our statutory function as record keepers and in line with Senate decision on the matter, we did consider the need to collate all the decisions of Senate on this sensitive matter for inclusion in this policy document for the information of staff and students.

Dr. Sydney C. Enyindah
Registrar/Secretary to Senate.
24th April, 2022