

# Textbook choice up to instructor

By JIM McCANNEY  
Collegian Staff Writer

The selection of a textbook for use in a course, in most cases, is the responsibility of the course instructor and rarely is subject to official approval, said Robert E. Dunham, vice president for Undergraduate Studies.

A random survey of five University departments revealed that only one of the five requires departmental approval of the instructor's textbook choice in all courses.

Another one out of five departments, however, requires official textbook approval for all Undergraduate courses above the 400 level.

In courses which have more than one section, the book is selected by members of the department, according to the Faculty Handbook. The handbook also states, "It is

the responsibility of the instructor to use the best available textbook commensurate with the students' ability to purchase it."

Asked about the possibility of a professor choosing his own book for a course for the purpose of increasing the sale of the book, Dunham said a faculty member may think his book is the best for the course. He agreed there is "no rule which says you may not require your own textbook." He also acknowledged the existence of small publishing firms which will print a book if there is a guarantee of sales.

Dunham pointed out that within a department, a faculty member may criticize another faculty member for selecting his own textbook to gain royalties or simply for choosing a very bad textbook. An instructor may find

textbooks available for a course in a variety of ways, such as seeing advertisements in journals and book exhibits at conventions, Dunham said.

John Davis, operations manager for the Penn State Bookstore, said professors can be contacted through their departments by publishers or by traveling sales representatives of the publishers.

The Bookmobile, which has operated at the request of the Penn State Bookstore for the past three years, provides information about textbooks to professors. Davis said only a small percentage of the faculty used the Bookmobile last term.

Professors should select their textbooks early because departmental textbook lists, which contain the title of the book, its author, the publisher and an estimate of the class enrollment in which the book is to be used, must be submitted eight weeks in advance.

As prescribed in the Faculty Handbook, these lists are sent to the office of the

# New policy gets few complaints

# Students prefer old exam policy

By MATT BENSON  
Collegian Staff Writer

Although administrators say they have received very few complaints about the new final exam policy, students seem to prefer the old method, according to a recent survey by The Daily Collegian.

Out of 50 students who were asked if they prefer the new policy compared to the former policy, 40 said they prefer the old policy, six prefer the new policy, and four have no opinion.

The new policy permits only quizzes and narrowly-limited tests to be given during the last week of the term. If a course does not require an exam at the end of the term, the instructor must submit an alternative means for evaluating student performance, such as a term paper, final project report, studio project or take-home examination.

The revised policy, which began this past Fall Term, extends the final examination period from three to about

five days, depending on the number of examinations scheduled.

The Faculty Senate changed the final examinations policy last February because it said giving examinations during the tenth week of classes interferes with the instruction continuing in other courses.

"I've listened to students who have strong feelings about final exams," University President John W. Oswald said last year. "In some instances, students were caught with all kinds of exams in the last week of a term."

Steve Willis (5th-liberal arts) summed up the opinions of most of those preferring the older method: "If it means we get out sooner, I'm all for it."

Another student said, "I like the idea of having to give a final during the exam period, although I'd rather have it spread over three days instead of five."

Speaking about the policy change, Thomas Daubert, chairman-elect of the Faculty Senate, said, "There were many students who wouldn't even go to classes

# Student aid available for Summer Term

Several student aid sources will be available to students Summer Term, although University Director of Financial Aid John F. Brugel said the amounts are still "uncertain at this point."

"To date, we've always been able to have funds available," he said, adding that the total funds are hard to determine because awards offered during the year always are being adjusted.

A one-page Summer Financial Aid Application must be filed in the Office of Student Aid, 135 Boucke, for students to be eligible for National Direct Student Aid, 135 Boucke, for students to be eligible for National Direct Student Loans (NDSL), Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), or College Work-Study awards.

Besides the special application, a 1977-78 Financial Aid Form (FAF) should be filed by students who currently are not receiving campus-based assistance.

Pennsylvania Higher Educational Assistance Agency (PHEAA) grant applications for summer aid will be available in the Student Aid Office early next month with the application period scheduled to end during August. Both the regular PHEAA application and the special summer document should be filed.

The federally-funded Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (BEOG) program, which is available to University students for three terms per year, may be obtained Summer Term only by students who have not used an award for one or more terms this academic year.

# High gas profits anticipated

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Natural gas distributors expect profits to soar in the first quarter, but they're also worried about explaining the increases to a shivering public.

"Profits will be astronomical," said a spokesman for National Fuel

Gas of Buffalo, N.Y., which serves 665,000 customers in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio.

"But the main reason for that is because we're selling most of our gas in the first quarter," he said in an interview.

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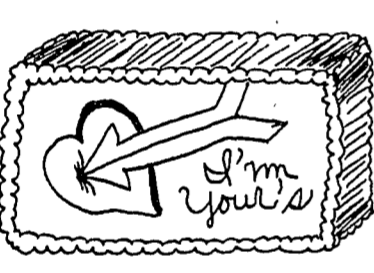

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