

## **Faculty Senate Report on Undergraduate Issues, 9/29 Draft to Steering Committee**

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### **I. Undergraduate Research Funding**

- a. Funding has been cut by 20% (\$1.1 million = 15% fewer paid research positions)
- b. Faculty should post to Undergraduate Research Listings, on [ual.stanford.edu](http://ual.stanford.edu). This will help faculty and undergraduates connect independently of preexisting programs that now have limited resources.
- c. Fewer grants (and only partially adjusted grant amounts to inflation) are a serious source of concern among the student body. Timely reinstatement of the grants, and at least a freeze on any further cuts are priorities for us.
- d. Given that total University research funding is actually up, undergraduate research is suffering only because it is funded through VPUE (therefore through General Funds). We respectfully ask for a closer correlation between University research resources and undergraduate support.

### **II. Textbook and Syllabus Announcements**

- a. Students are almost unanimously behind earlier notification of textbook requirements for courses and syllabus posting.
- b. Posting these items when Axess opens for enrollment each quarter will:
  - i. Allow students more time to buy/sell books, likely save them money (additionally, the bookstore will have more time to order books cheaply)
  - ii. Help with course and major planning
  - iii. Offer early exam scheduling
- c. Early, standardized posting regulations will facilitate streamlined upload of all syllabi to [syllabus.stanford.edu](http://syllabus.stanford.edu), and ExploreCourses.
- d. ASSU Book Exchange Program
- e. There is federal legislation mandating early textbook release.

### **III. Grade Distributions for CourseRank**

- a. Currently, only the Engineering Department releases official grade distributions to CourseRank
- b. Students overwhelmingly support the release of all distributions
- c. The distributions aid students in planning their quarters, by helping set expectations and goals at the outset. Fewer surprises when grades are announced.
- d. Criticisms that students would flock to easily graded classes are not supported by current data from the Engineering Department