



## **RUSA Bill S20 - 09**

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**Sponsor:** Academic Affairs Committee; University Affairs Committee; Student Affairs Committee

### **Bill to Establish a RUSA Clicker Bank**

*Whereas*, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) seeks to increase access to education by improving the affordability of course materials, such as textbooks and clickers;

*Whereas*, students must buy clickers for a variety of courses because instructors often use them to keep track of students' participation by counting clicker responses as a percentage of the final course grades;

*Whereas*, clickers promote education by encouraging class attendance, increasing participation, improving understanding of material, improving exam scores, and increasing the instructor's awareness of the students' problems in the course<sup>1</sup>;

*Whereas*, the average Rutgers student spends over \$1,350 on textbooks each year<sup>2</sup>, which is \$110 per year greater than the national average<sup>3</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1810212/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/cost-of-attendance/rutgers-2/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/average-estimated-undergraduate-budgets-2018-19>

*Whereas*, the Assembly previously supported the Open & Affordable Textbook Program<sup>4</sup>, which is a similar initiative in that it helps to provide students with the resources they need for their courses;

*Be it hereby resolved that* the Assembly enacts a clicker bank with the following provisions:

- I. The Assembly will utilize part of its funds to purchase an equal number of Turning Technologies and iClicker-branded clickers. At time of writing, these clickers costed approximately \$20<sup>5</sup> and \$45<sup>6</sup>, respectively. The Assembly will purchase the maximum number of clickers possible with the allotted funds.
- II. The Assembly will encourage the prioritization of students in need, such as those receiving financial aid, in obtaining clickers from the bank, through earlier marketing of the clicker bank to students in need and making the remaining clickers available to all students afterwards.
- III. The bank will be administered by coordinating with the Rutgers Libraries, who have expressed interest in working with RUSA on this project, but who cannot deliver a final decision due to closure because of COVID-19.
  - A. In the case that the Libraries are unable to administer the clicker bank, the RUSA Academic Affairs Committee will administer it. Should this be the case, RUSA will charge a security deposit, which will be returned to the student once they have returned the clicker. The security deposit implementation will be up to the Academic Affairs Committee running the clicker bank. The student who borrowed the clicker will be responsible for maintaining it (e.g. batteries, purchase of required subscriptions).

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<sup>4</sup> [RUSA Resolution S1718-02](#), [RUSA Bill F19-12](#), [RUSA Bill S19-07](#)

<sup>5</sup>

[https://www.amazon.com/Turning-Technologies-NXT-RCXR-02-ResponseCard/dp/1934931454/ref=sr\\_1\\_6?crid=2XRB5AMDWUTWX&dchild=1&keywords=turning+technology+clicker&qid=1585854960&srefix=turning+technology+%2Caps%2C159&sr=8-6#customerReviews](https://www.amazon.com/Turning-Technologies-NXT-RCXR-02-ResponseCard/dp/1934931454/ref=sr_1_6?crid=2XRB5AMDWUTWX&dchild=1&keywords=turning+technology+clicker&qid=1585854960&srefix=turning+technology+%2Caps%2C159&sr=8-6#customerReviews)

<sup>6</sup>

[https://www.amazon.com/iclicker-student-remote-REEF-Packaging/dp/1319149243/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?dchild=1&keywords=iclicker&qid=1585855091&sr=8-4](https://www.amazon.com/iclicker-student-remote-REEF-Packaging/dp/1319149243/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=iclicker&qid=1585855091&sr=8-4)

IV. The clicker bank will be operational at the beginning of the first semester during which the University resumes its in-person activities following the control of the COVID-19 pandemic (at time of writing, projected to be Fall 2020).

***Be it further resolved that*** the Assembly allocates \$10,000, which will allow for the purchase of approximately 308 clickers, assuming an average clicker cost of \$32.50. \$2950 of this will come from the remaining Academic Affairs Committee 2019-2020 budget.