



Athabasca University
Students' Union

AUSU Services Survey

Circulated May 2014

Report for Public

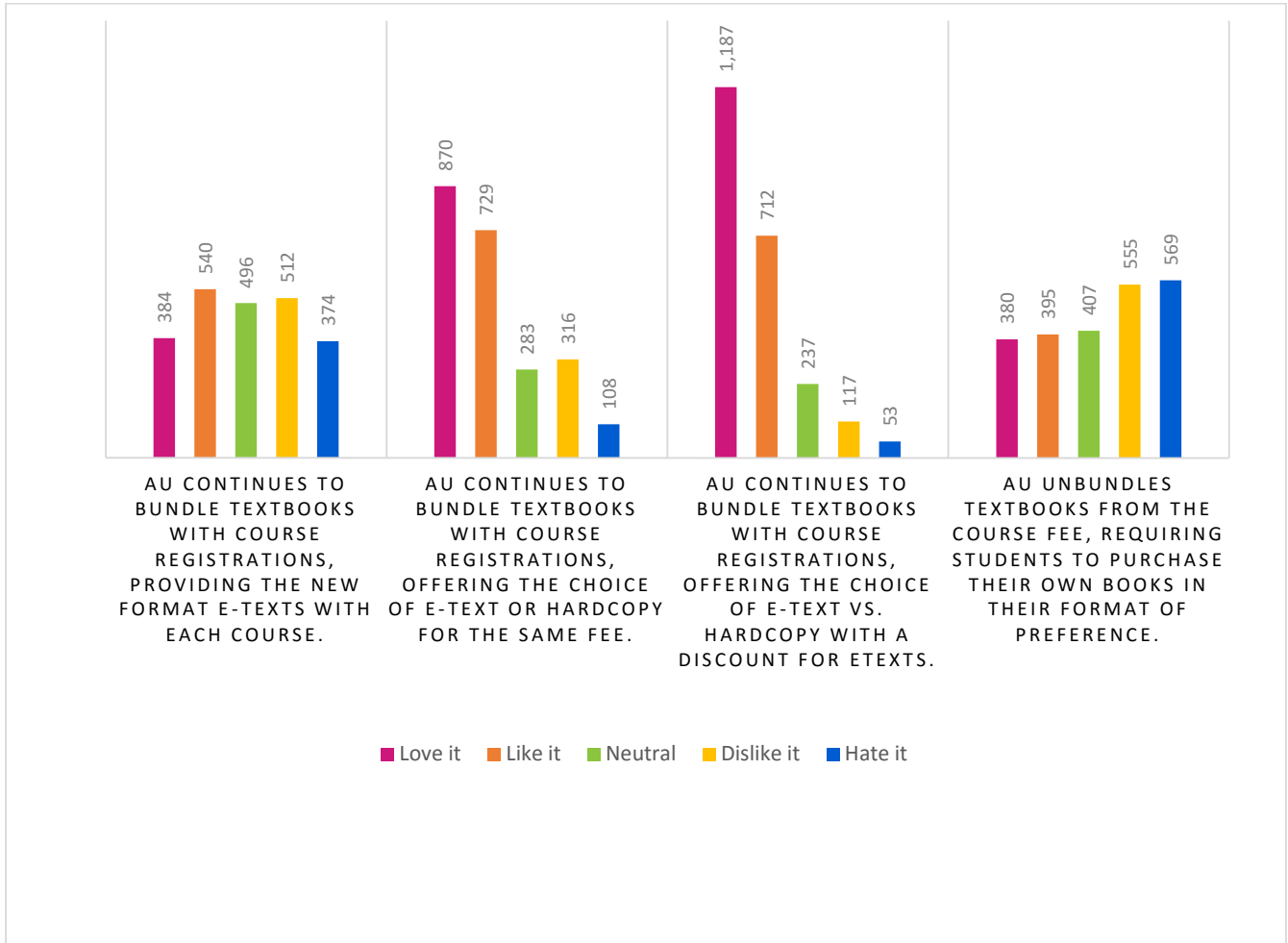
Compiled by Donette Kingyens, Office Administrator.

Feb 10, 2016.

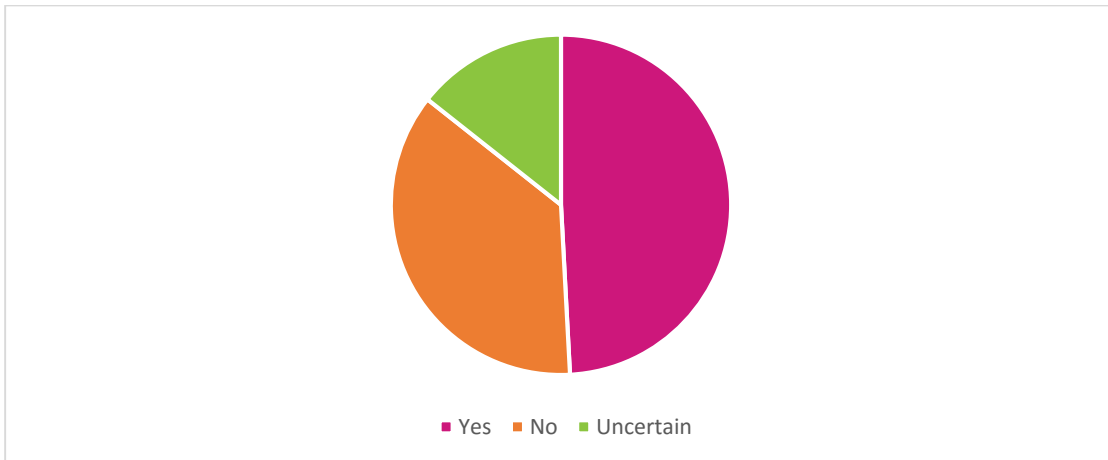
AUSU E-text Survey

TOTAL SURVEY RESPONSES: 2,307

Q1: How appealing do you find the following options?

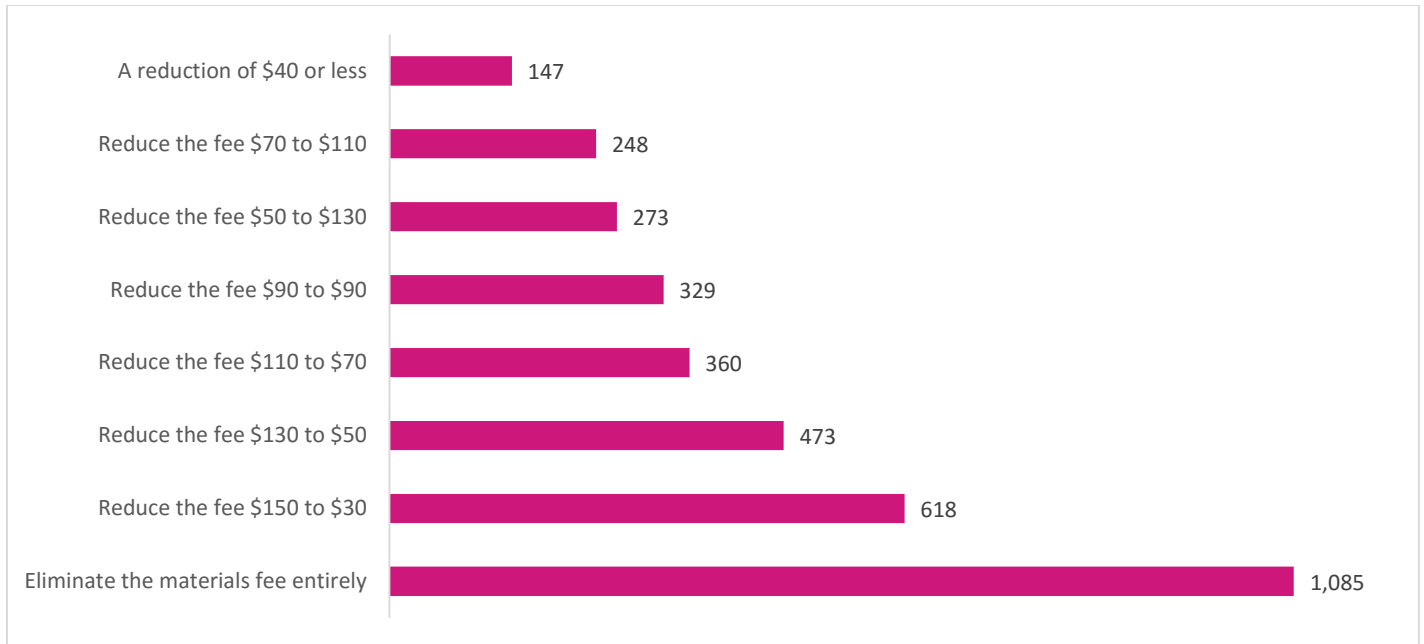


Q2: Are you confident/comfortable with purchasing your own textbooks, considering that you must select the correct revision or version of the book? (Assuming AU provides the book title and author, publication date, version number, and isbn information).

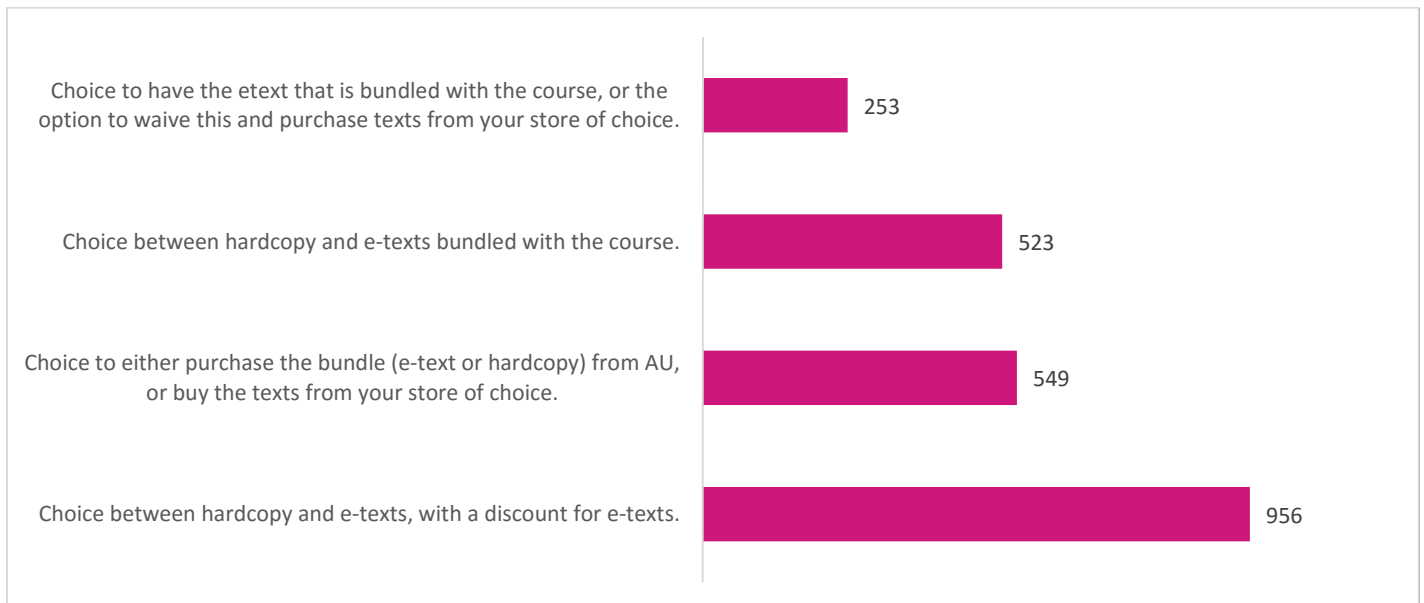


AUSU E-text Survey

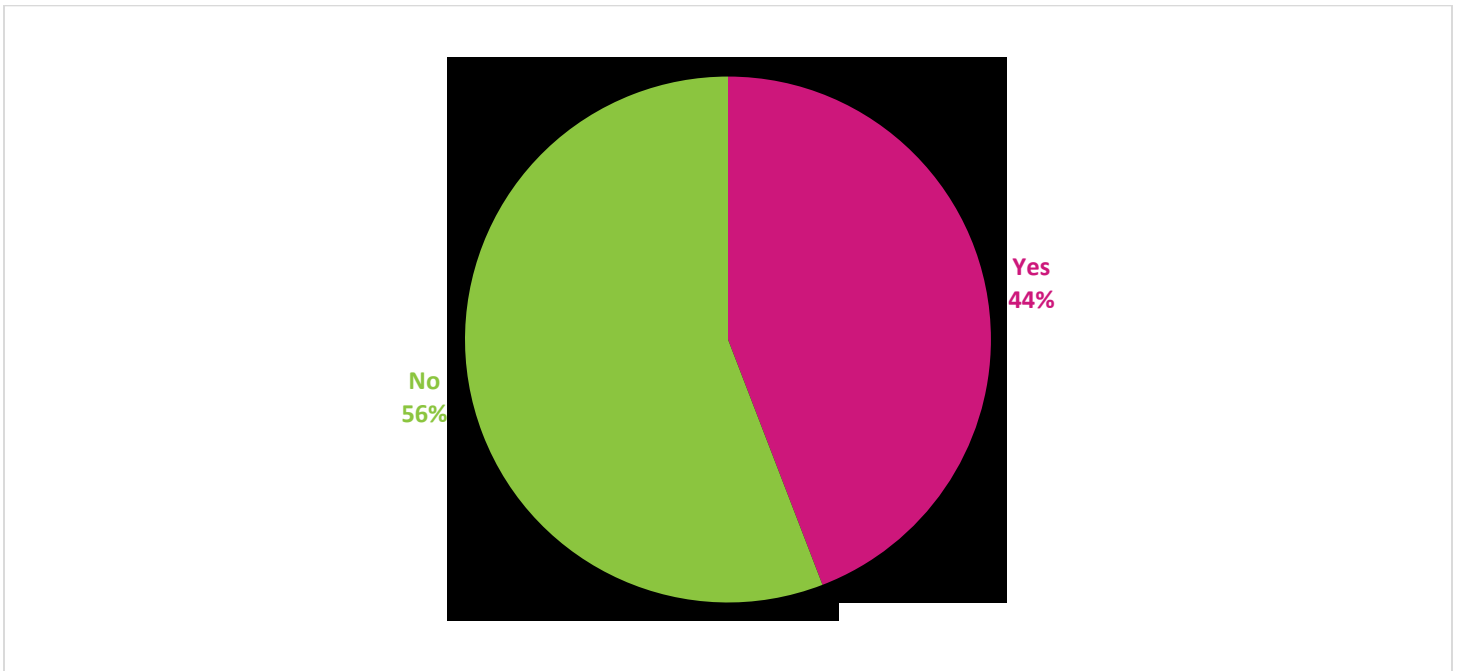
Q3: The current course materials fee is \$180, and is included in the total AU undergrad course registration fee. AU states that it includes textbooks, AU-produced materials (the on-line study guide and student manual), and license fees for some print or on-line materials like journal articles or book excerpts. Given this, which of the following fee adjustments would be acceptable to you if textbooks were no longer included with courses (select as many options as apply):



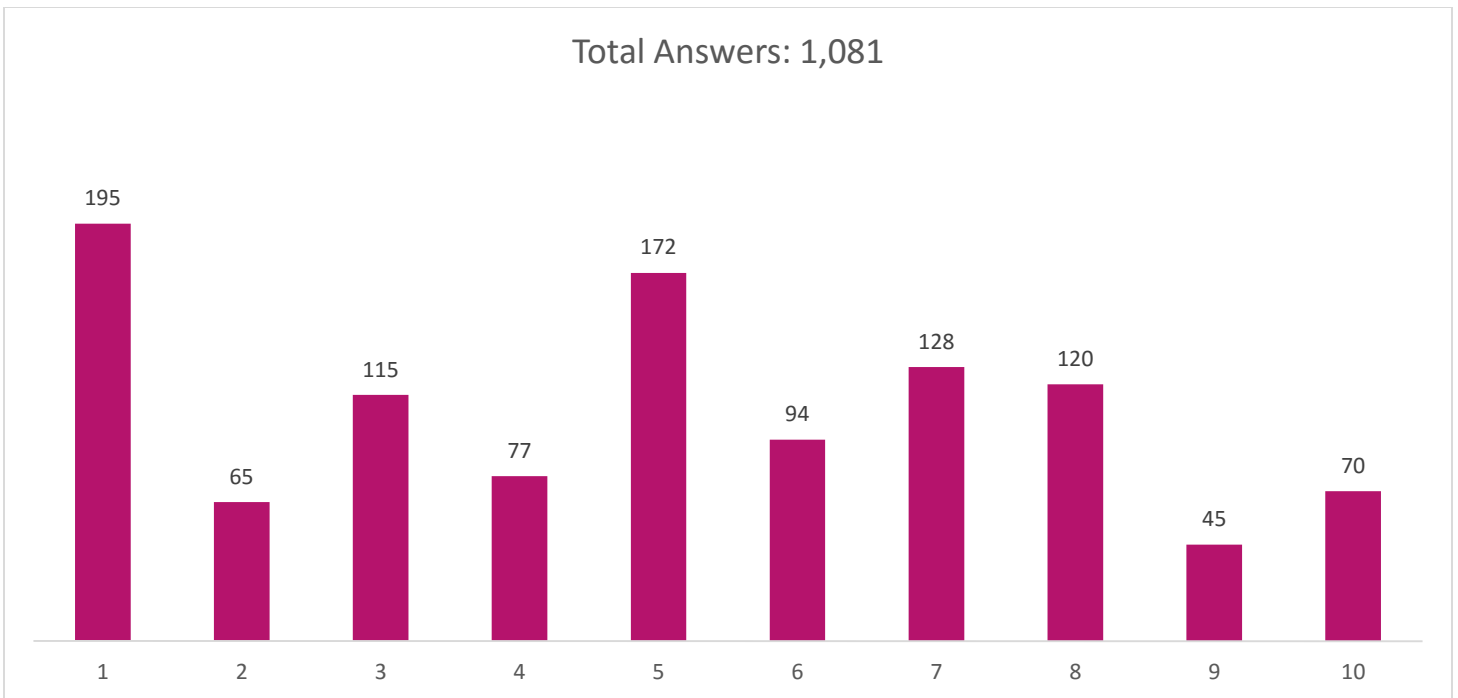
Q4: AUSU has strongly advocated for our members to have a choice of textbook format, though at this time AU is implementing e-texts as the sole option for new courses. "Choice" has also been a hot topic with students and university committees, but there is no consistent vision of what this means. Which of these statements most closely aligns with your understanding of offering students a "choice."



Q5: Have you received any Vital Source e-texts with an AU course?



Q6: If you have received a Vital Source e-text from AU, please rank your satisfaction with the format from 1-10 with 10 being extremely satisfied and 1 being extremely dissatisfied. (you can provide comments on the next page)



Q7: If our questions did not provide an opportunity for you to express your concerns or ideas about AU course materials, please feel free to expand here:

RESPONSES: 932

Although there were too many responses to list individually, the vast majority of comments prefer physical textbooks, and indicated issues with e-texts. The most frequent comments were as follows:

- e-texts are difficult to navigate, cannot go directly to a page, too much scrolling
- e-texts are unhealthy, cause eye-strain, fatigue, headaches, migraines
- do not have regular access to e-texts
- no mobile device to study on the go
- no regular internet access to read e-texts
- do not want to have to study at computer all the time
- studying at computer too hard after working all day at computer
- e-text formats not available on all tablets/devices/software
- different learning styles require hardcopy
- e-texts should cost less
- have to print e-texts out, incurs too much cost
- hard to print e-text as only allows 10 pages at a time to print
- choice should be provided
- e-texts difficult for learning disabilities
- e-texts only delayed course completion
- Hard to highlight or make notes with e-texts
- VitalSource Bookshelf not as reliable as other more popular programs such as Kindle
- VitalSource Bookshelf too difficult to navigate
- e-texts require software downloads, hard to study away from home
- prefer hardcopy as want to keep textbooks
- students should be given choice