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ECU PHYSICS DEPARTMENT TO OFFER FREE TEXTBOOKS TO STUDENTS

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Greenville – This fall, students at East Carolina University enrolled in University Physics, PHYS 2350/2360, won't have to shell out the typical \$200 for a textbook. Instead, they will have the opportunity to obtain a free copy of a recently approved electronic textbook.

Physics for Science and Engineering Students, by Peter J. Nolan, will be available to students at no cost. Students will access the free textbook via BlackBoard, as soon as their professor enables the site for the course.

Faculty of the physics department voted to adopt the idea of purchasing the license for an electronic textbook in response to the ECU Board of Governors and Chancellor Ballard's request to reduce student textbook costs.

"Over the past many years, the faculty has been increasingly dissatisfied with the rising cost of physics textbooks and the practice of publishers to frequently release new editions without substantial change—thereby affecting the availability of used books," states Dr. James Joyce, Harriot College of Arts and Sciences professor of physics and chair of the textbook committee.

The department reviews textbooks every three years. Beginning this fall 2008, the free electronic textbook will be in use by students enrolling in PHYS 2350/2360 for the next six semesters and during summer sessions. With an estimated enrollment of 200 students taking University Physics each year, and another 35 enrolled during the summer, total savings in textbook costs over the next three years will equal roughly \$141,000.

For students who may prefer a printed and bound copy of the textbook, the department currently is in discussion with student stores concerning printing a select number of copies.

University Physics is a calculus-based introduction to basic principles of physics. The course covers the topics of mechanics, thermodynamics, electricity and magnetism, optics and modern physics.

For additional information about the free, electronic textbook, please contact Dr. Joyce at joycej@ecu.edu or call the Department of Physics at 252-328-6739.

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