

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

**Virtual Bookstore Agreement for Participating Schools**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York authorize the University to choose a virtual bookstore company to provide a virtual, on-line, substitute to the brick and mortar bookstore at some or all of the colleges, to support the educational mission of the University by providing necessary textbooks (new, used, digital, rental, etc.) and related course materials to students at the lowest possible cost, in exchange for the payment of commission on sales. The virtual bookstore company shall be a responsive and responsible offeror chosen on the basis of best value after public advertisement and timely submission of sealed proposals through a Request for Proposal solicitation and evaluation process conducted by the University pursuant to law and University Regulations. The term of the contract is expected to be five (5) years with one three-year and one two-year renewal option as determined in the University's best interest. The contract will be executed by the University and may be administered at the campus level by a college's auxiliary enterprise corporation, and shall be subject to approval as to form by the University Office of General Counsel.

EXPLANATION: Currently most CUNY college bookstores are brick and mortar stores managed and operated pursuant to contracts between tax-exempt auxiliary enterprise corporations at the CUNY colleges and a bookstore services company. With the rise of new technologies, including multiple on-line marketplaces for obtaining course materials, and increasing textbook costs, fewer students are purchasing their textbooks and other course materials at the traditional college bookstore. Consequently, the University would like to replace the current brick and mortar arrangements with a user-friendly virtual platform from a single operator that provides students with the ability to purchase required and recommended course materials at generally lower costs, while creating greater efficiencies, freeing up campus space and maximizing funds for the colleges. A first cohort of colleges has opted to participate in the RFP; any and all other colleges may choose to participate at a later date. This arrangement will not involve the expenditure of any tax levy funds.