XI. FAQs: HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACT (HEOA) AND CUNY BOOKLIST

What is The Higher Education Opportunity Act?
Also known as HEOA, The Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315) was enacted on August 14, 2008. It “amend[s] and extend[s] the Higher Education Act of 1965,” and includes provisions that relate to textbook information, transparency in college tuition, federal grants and loans, and federal work-study programs, among many other things. For more information, and to access the full text of the bill, please go to: http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/leg/hea08/index.html.

What is the purpose of HEOA’s textbook provisions?
According to the act itself, “The purpose ... is to ensure that students have access to affordable course materials by decreasing costs to students and enhancing transparency and disclosure with respect to the selection, purchase, sale, and use of course materials. It is the intent of this section to encourage all of the involved parties, including faculty, students, administrators, institutions of higher education, bookstores, distributors, and publishers, to work together to identify ways to decrease the cost of college textbooks and supplemental materials for students while supporting the academic freedom of faculty members to select high quality course materials for students.”