

## Original Vision Statement for the Modular Mathematics Materials:

### **A Stable, High Quality Precalculus, Calculus and Differential Equations Text -- Under 1,000 Pages, Under 100 Dollars.**

**High quality** is a must. Only materials that work will improve education. My ideas on what quality means are outlined in the forewords of the texts. I am also actively seeking reviewers, proofreaders, etc. to continue improving.

Coverage of **Precalculus, Calculus and Differential Equations** is inspired by Louisiana Tech University's integrated engineering and science curricula. These subjects are the core mathematics subjects for engineering, science and mathematics majors in their first two years of college. We can and should discuss implementation details and if this is enough, but these topics will remain the core for the foreseeable future.

Aiming for a text that covers all of the above in **under 1,000 pages** is ambitious, but it may still be possible. Currently there are 1,226 pages of text (precalculus: 196, single variable calculus: 374, multivariable calculus: 372, differential equations: 234, plus 50 pages of statistics, appendices not counted). The page number is likely to drop under 1,200 after streamlining the multivariable calculus and differential equations part and better utilization of unused white space. This size compares favorably with separate books on precalculus, calculus and differential equations that approach or even exceed 1,100 pages of text (appendices not counted). Smaller size should lead to more effective presentation of the topics and also to lower prices.

An end price of **under \$100** is achievable. The first and second editions of "Single Variable Calculus with Precalculus" at a student end price of \$50.25 plus tax at the Tech book store and I am very pleased with Fountainhead Press's commitment to low prices. The second part of the work should not cost any more, putting us at a total of at most \$100.50 plus tax. Also, with custom selections possible and encouraged, a calculus text for \$50-60 is realistic. This is achieved by printing the text in grayscale and by avoiding unnecessary add-ons or marketing gimmicks.

The issue of pricing has recently caught increasing attention in academia in general (consider the State Public Interest Research Groups' report *Rip-off 101: Second Edition. How the Publishing Industry's Practices Needlessly Drive Up Textbook Costs*, available at <http://www.ospirgstudents.org/> ) and the practice of frequent new editions to keep sales stable has been commented on in T. Liggett's letter to the editor in the Notices of the AMS, vol. 52, #8. Aside from pricing, I can promise the texts to be **stable**. Any edition is a file on my computer. An adopting institution is welcome to a backup copy of this file and I am sure Fountainhead can print off this file indefinitely. I will continue to upgrade and I encourage input and improvements. But the decision when to use these improvements can be entirely the users'.