

Ad Hoc Committee to Review Open Textbook Resources

January, 2021

Present: Kelly Smith, Matt Winslow, Steven Shisley, Jill Parrott, Jennifer Hight, Laura Edwards, Michelle Grep, Jason Marion,

1. Approve minutes from October 26
2. Matt & Kelly to attend Fac Senate Exec Cte meeting. Opportunity to ask questions about our concerns. Which are:
 - a. Here are some concerns that faculty have brought to me:
 - Were any faculty included in this decision? The Bookstore Advisory Committee would have been a good place to get feedback on the idea and address concerns.
 - When are faculty going to be told more about the process for this? There is a lot of confusion.
 1. What's going to happen if people drop classes? Late adds?
 2. Will wanton new book ordering be discouraged? Because if faculty aren't "guilty" about assigning expensive textbooks will they just go crazy now?
 3. Would it be possible to have some sort of book insurance program for students who lose or damage their books?
 - b. Is there a contract? How much is this program estimated to cost the university in the Fall? Where is the funding coming from? Grants? Tuition dollars? Clarity would be helpful here because the public impression is that this is just freely being offered by B&N.
 - c. How can BookSmart and OER initiatives work together so that BookSmart won't derail the continued progress being made with OERs?
 - Can the book adoption email that goes out from the Provost office include language about OER and other alternative textbook options?
 - If a faculty member prefers to continue using OERs - actual free OERs available online, not the ones selected through B&Ns system - will there be a mechanism through which they can indicate that in the faculty ordering system?
 - In the past, for faculty who decline to adopt a traditional book, the system assigned formerly adopted textbooks to students in those classes. If this happens now, unneeded books will be purchased using university funds and distributed to students. Is there a way we could add a confirmation process for all the books?
 - Can we work on adding a "Zero Textbook Cost" designation in the catalog? This is done at many universities. Regents have asked for data on the percentage of faculty using OERs and we currently don't have an accurate way to track that.