Textbook Affordability Committee

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

1:00 p.m., Milner Library 311G

Minutes

**Members Attending**: Laurence Bender, Joshua Crockett, Joe Hendrix, Julie Murphy, Anne Shelley, Euysup Shim, Crystal Nourie, Pam Walden

**Members Absent**: Caleb Howard, Samiat Solebo, Michaelene Cox

Call to Order: 1:00

**Action Items:**

1. Review and approve draft minutes from December 3rd meeting

No updates were submitted. Minutes approved.

1. Determine minutes taker

Anne requested a member of the committee to continue the rotation of this responsibility. Crystal agreed to take minutes for the current meeting.

**Information Items:**

1. CTLT Symposium Poster Report

CTLT Symposium Poster- Euysup & Anne reported that people at symposium were very interested and surprised by survey results. Anne stated that the committee may want to get those results out on a website so they are more accessible

1. Review semester goals

*Suggestions*:

* Joshua mentioned Heartland’s textbook swap policy and explained how it worked with a donation/credit process as well as a scholarship program for the monetary donations put toward the book swap. He thought it could possibly be an SGA sponsored project. He questioned how that might work with B&N contract. Joe said he could look into that or touch base with Danielle. Anne questioned if there is a way to tie this in with course reserves at the library. She and Julie stated that the current course reserve is a small percentage of current textbooks, just 1 copy per book typically. Ebook copies are an option sometimes. Sometimes professors contact library to ask for a few books to be kept on course reserve. Library cannot facilitate access to online material/access codes/ebook rentals.

Explanation/display on how ebooks work followed: Terms are dependent on each purchase/book/publisher. It is not a standardized process. Unlimited access to ebook would be wonderful but is very rare.

Anne stated that she will look for examples of book swap program at other Universities. Joe will look at when B&N contract is up for renewal next, and does B&N do a swap program at other schools?

Pam notes that Edwardsville has books tied in with tuition.

Julie has heard of publisher having contract with school and students pay a flat fee.

* Crystal mentioned Larry at the Alamo II would like an audience with this committee If possible.

Pam raised question of difference between Alamo and B&N in terms of “official” bookstore. Joe stated the contract language is that B&N is official on-campus bookstore. Alamo has a long-standing contract with ISU Athletics.

**Discussion Items:**

1. ISU Faculty Survey

Anne stated that it is important to get insight into faculty mindset so we can provide them with options.

* Access codes question- Reword possibly. Possibly add a question on whether faculty know the price of their access codes

Run down of Registrar’s process followed after a question was raised about departments entering the price of the textbook. Crystal stated that information is typically not displayed since it rarely matched what was being charged. This led to many upset students.

* Pam brought up the question of how many faculty require that they authored.
* Euysup asked to add what kind of courses you teach- Gen Ed/Non Gen-Ed? How many books do you require for each class.
* Joe brought up the costs of new additions and student perception/student frustration when the content is the same or very similar.
* Question 2. Discussion on how to re-word this one. How do we get more, useful information out of this question? It was decided the committee should probably add a textbox.
* Euysup wants to add question about expected outcomes from faculty if student’s cannot purchase text. Discussion followed on how to word this question and what options should be supplied.
* Euysup questions whether there would be copyright issues if textbook material was used in class but textbook is not required. Julie and Anne said they might be able to ask their copyright contact in the library.
* Euysup requested a definition of access code be included in the survey

Access code discussion followed- Julie explains publishers make them attractive to faculty- additional material, graded assignments/exams, demos, etc. A lot of positives for professor, many drawbacks for students.

Larry left 1:55pm

2. Textbook Policy Review

* Anne displayed the current textbook policy for review. There was discussion regarding whether any updates are needed to the current policy. It was decided that any recommendations we had would not fit into this venue. No recommendations will be made at this time. Anne will notify the chair of the Academic Affairs Committee.
* Crystal stated she will fix the broken link in the policy to correctly point to the Registrar’s page

**Adjournment**: Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.