TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

2:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attending – Julie Murphy, Pam Walden, Anne Shelley, Amelia Noel-Elkins, Euysup Shim, Michaelene Cox

Absent – Caleb Howard, Joe Hendrix, Joshua Crockett, Lauren Harris

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM

Action Items:

1. Reviewed and approved minutes from 8/25 meeting
2. Determined method for taking minutes

Committee members volunteered to rotate this responsibility. Julie agreed to take minutes for this meeting, Euysup agreed to do so in October, and Michaelene agreed to take minutes in November.

Information Items:

1. Anne and Amelia met with WEB 9/16

Anne & Amelia met with IT to talk about textbook affordability website – they work primarily in the MyPortal. We talked about ways for students to find the site, and ideas for ways to present the issues to students. Amelia felt they were mostly focused on students and not multiple audiences.

1. Scheduled to attend 11/18 chairs and directors council meeting

Anne & Amelia will speak at a chairs and council meeting in November. We will ask the web group what this group can do and what faculty can do. We further discussed the textbook submissions and adoption process on campus.

1. Textbook Policy in the Senate

The academic senate will be discussing the revisions to the textbook policy tomorrow.

1. Affordable Textbook Initiative Grant status update – dates and amounts

Milner will be going forward with the textbook initiative grant as planned – with a small increase to the amounts available.

1. US Department of Education Open Textbook Pilot Program – CARLI; Provost Tarhule

Illinois’s state academic library consortium is submitting an application for this grant. Separately, Provost Tarhule forwarded an announcement about the grant’s Call for Applications to select stakeholders on campus.

1. Milner CARLI Counts Project

Julie, Anne, and several other Milner librarians are working on a grant program to help librarians conduct student success research. They have chosen to focus on textbook affordability, and are planning a project that would purchase e-versions of textbooks that have been selected for Spring Semester courses, then measure how the textbook availability impacted student success in the course. Michaeline and Euysup asked questions about how licensing, purchasing, and ILL work for ebooks.

1. Textbook Affordability Email Alias – textbookaffordability@ilstu.edu

Email sent to that address should be forwarded to all committee members from now on. Point person for responding to e-mails is the current TAC chair, who may delegate to other committee members.

Discussion Items

1. Cloud doc – Goals/activities for FY2021 -
* The CTLT web symposium is planned for 1/6 as a zoom event.
* We need a better way to communicate with faculty on the importance of considering textbook options for students who cannot afford books or access codes. We need to educate them about their various options and the importance of assigning correct materials and marking required.
* We should investigate options/programs/systems to reduce textbook costs to students. Inclusive access was discussed. ISU doesn’t have any inclusive access agreements currently. We could investigate this and learn enough to make a recommendation.
* We could create a virtual training session for faculty, either synchronous or asynchronous. Amelia suggested that Comivo could be used as a platform for this. Pam suggested tailoring little videos or snippets or segments for different topics.
* We could investigate a textbook swap program through SGA or ISU office of sustainability, but this would be significantly more difficult now because of the pandemic. Maybe we should consider the food pantry as a model? Caleb will investigate this further.
* Julie completed a preliminary analysis of the Faculty survey and asked for feedback about further analysis. We decided that she will write up what she’s completed so far.

Adjourned at 3:29 PM.