TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE

**Thursday, November 4, 2021**

1:00 p.m.– 2:00 p.m.

Milner 311, Conference Room

**Minutes**

**Members Attending**:  Pam Walden, Julie Murphy, Harold Dennis, Eduardo Monk, Joe Hendrix, Adena Meyers

**Guests Attending:** n/A

**Members Absent:**Mallory Jallas, Amelia Noel-Elkins, Antonio Causarano

**Call to Order:** 1:04

**Action Items**:

1. Review and approve draft minutes from September and October meetings
   * 1. Motion to approve (Walden, Hendrix): Minutes approved unanimously
2. Determine minutes taker: Meyers

**Information Items**:

1. Brief update on Milner’s e-Textbook project: Julie provided update. Just got nursing textbooks. Most of the way through the process of figuring out which ones to purchase for Spring. List available next week. We have 10K to work with this time thanks to Amelia. Will start purchasing in two weeks approx. First find out which ones we’re buying and then the list of the ones that didn’t quite make cut and distribute to subject liaisons to see if they want to purchase any. These are permanent purchases (library will own indefinitely as long as the company stays in business, but new editions would be a separate purchase).
2. Brief update from Joe on First Day Complete: B & N returned to campus a couple of days ago (Tuesday 11/2) & Joe attended.
   * 1. Administrators had met with them in an earlier meeting. Some favorable impressions based on that meeting were communicated with the Provost and President. New parties from the university & some additional people form Barnes & Noble College were present for the meeting on Tuesday.
     2. Joe provided an overview of First Day Complete. Students are charged a flat fee per credit hour and Barnes & Noble then provides all required textbooks/materials for the semester. Materials must be returned at the end of the semester unless the student opts to pay extra to keep any books they want to keep. Students can opt in or out for the semester (it is an all or nothing choice). Barnes & Noble works with all the publishers so there are no restrictions in terms of which textbooks/materials instructors can choose. This model of textbook delivery/purchasing is called “inclusive access.” It is relatively new (first appeared about 5–7 years).

**Discussion Items:**

1. Discussion of First Day Complete Memo: The committee reviewed points from the memo that Julie Murphy drafted.
   * 1. Price – what would influence that and how often is it re-evaluated? Barnes & Noble said (in Tuesday meeting) that they re-evaluate this annually.
        1. If a high percent of students opt out, that could cause cost per credit hour to go up.
        2. Nursing does textbooks differently and were not included in the original cost estimate of $20/credit hour (they said the average is $24/credit hour).
        3. The $20 cost is based on undergraduate only. They normally don’t see graduate students pulled into these programs because graduate students usually want to keep their textbooks (similar to reason why upper-level undergrads may opt out)
     2. Timing of student decision to opt in or out. They typically set price for upcoming year before fall registration begins (i.e., March).
        1. Barnes & Noble folks said that rates usually go down year over year based on experience at other institutions (likely because opt-out rate is lower than 10%)
     3. Julie reported that she and Mallory are skeptical b/c they’ve read a lot about inclusive access over the year. Savings delivered tends not to be as large as promised. There are winners and losers. Some students will save money and others will wind up spending more than they would have otherwise (especially if the course uses Open Educational Materials or one of the Milner textbooks from above-mentioned program). Many Inclusive Access Programs contractually limit the way that you can communicate with your students about opting out. Makes it difficult to communicate that opting out is an option, to tell them how to opt out or to help them evaluate their options.
     4. Predicted savings for students was based on ISU’s Net Price Calculator entry for books ($800 per year). Barnes & Noble said that seems low, so that means $100 savings per semester for 15 credit hours.
     5. Pam mentioned: What about the Alamo? How will this affect Alamo’s business. Both Alamo and Barens & Noble currently stock about 50%. We have a relationship with them. This will negatively affect that.
     6. What is our obligation to make books available to students who opt out?
   1. Student reactions at our meeting: Generally positive, but 90% opt-in rate seems optimistic and there would be details to work out. Opt-out model may drive this, but is troubling to students.
   2. Goals/activities for FY2022

**Announcements/Miscellaneous:**

**Adjournment:** 1:55