

Minutes
Faculty Senate Committee on Technology
January 17, 2012, 3:30 – 4:43 PM, Union 213

Attending: Grinter, Crawford, Bormann, Brooke-Kieffer, Molidor (via Polucom), Stadtlander, Knackendoffel, Rintoul (chair). Guests – Robert Gamez (office of Admissions), Steve Levin (Varney's Bookstore).

- 1) Approval of minutes from the last meeting
- 2) Announcements – Stafford cannot attend due to late meetings in Topeka, but passed along word that the committee to assess and make recommendations re email provider has been finalized and should meet soon.
- 3) Discussion of new federal requirements for tracking attendance of students with federal Pell grant funding (Robert Gamez, Office of Student Financial Aid) – *New federal interest in tracking attendance of students with federal financial aid, will require faculty action at some level. Approx 70% of the KSU student body has financial aid, including \$20 million in federal (Pell grants) as part of \$136 million in total federal student aid here. Feds want to know that these students have participated in some “academically-related” activity in order to retain eligibility (and aid). CSU had a federal audit a couple of years ago, (common) assumption that student enrollment was sufficient evidence for attendance in class was questioned in the audit finding. CSU instructors were asked to retroactively document student participation. CU took notice of this and instituted a system where grades of F were not entered into the system until instructors could document this participation. KSU has no system in place to meet this new requirement, so a committee will be tasked with developing a system. This cannot be solicited from the student, but must come from the instructor. CU system might be the best way to do this, would require additional input at the time a grade of F is assigned. Would require changes to both iSIS and KSOL, as well as the interface between iSIS and KSOL. Grades of Incomplete) will be discussed, but probably will not be a huge issue if instructors follow the university handbook regs for assigning an I. More audits are likely in the future, since the Dept. of Education has hired many new auditors in the last few months. Whatever system is developed, education and communication with faculty members will be paramount.*
- 4) Discussion with Steve Levin to clarify answers to questions that arose in our last meeting.
 - a. In discussion about the spirit of the legislation that mandated this textbook notification requirement, concern was expressed that a single link to a single business does not meet the spirit of the law, which focused on choice and affordability. A solution would be to include in the link from iSIS, a price-checking website rather than the single link for purchasing from Varney's. You offered to send some language to the committee that might be appropriate for the link to be developed. What is the status of that? – *Intent of the law is to be transparent, so Varney's website now contains new language. Should also contain language similar to a webpage from Anne Arundel Community College (http://www.aaccbooks.com/site_affordability.asp), appended below). This will be developed, and was welcomed because it also addresses a concern in the original law about bundling. Software to check prices will be added to Varney's site, but software and development will take some time.*
 - b. We discussed the possibility of changing the process so that faculty receive immediate feedback from the web page if their book adoption request was received and was now in the process. The current procedure includes an email that comes later; immediate feedback was deemed to be more useful. Travis indicated that this should be doable.

What is the status of that change? – *Revamped site will include this, but provider for the*

Varney's website hasn't done it yet. Hope to have in place for the next enrollment season.

Wording and or other structural suggestions will be solicited from FSCOT members.

- c. In discussion about the possibility that this textbook-reporting service performed by Varney's could theoretically go away at any time, you said that the current contract with the university ends in 2013, so that there should be ample time to make changes if that was a real possibility. It was unclear at the time if this reference to a contract was for the space in the Union, or for this textbook reporting service, or both. Is there a contract between the university and Varney's that lays out the obligations for textbook reporting for both sides? If so, who is/was the university signatory, and can we obtain a copy of that contract? If not, how were these arrangements made and formalized? – *There is no contract that covers the expectations and delivery of the textbook affordability aspects (solicitation of textbook information, provision of that information to students during enrollment). Effort and labor expended by Varney's is substantial, Levin was asked if it would be better from Varney's perspective if there was a contract with defined expectations. It was time-consuming to get an answer to that question. Possibility of an addendum to bookstore/union contract eventually suggested by Levin, should perhaps be investigated. Alternatively, contractual provisions could be put it into bookstore/Union contract when it is renegotiated in 2013 (this could be problematic because the Union is not actually part of the university). Levin suggested that other competitors, if successful in bidding for the new contract, might not perform like Varneys and that they would not provide that list in a timely or complete manner to other vendors. Since the law requires that the textbook and class schedule list has to be disseminated to anyone who requests it, if this really is a perceived problem, it might be better if the university prepared and disseminated the list rather than a vendor who is in competition with the vendors to whom it needs to supply the list.*
 - d. Further discussion about textbook issues
 - i. Appearance of textbook ads from Amazon in local papers, this late in the semester, is due to the fact that these national chains buy ads in all papers at the same time.
 - ii. Apple initiative in academic publishing (“iTunes for your textbook”) announced 1/19/2012 should be closely watched. Emphasis on K-12 material so far, but could expand.
 - iii. Initiative with McGraw-Hill to do a pilot project for e-textbook/materials at lower prices (but only if 1005 of the students buy these materials) has been delayed. Amanda Braun (McGraw-Hill rep who briefed KSU about this) has been out of commission since just after that meeting. No further information at this time. Steve Levin may be able to provide more information about this as well.
 - iv. FAQ about the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (which includes the textbook affordability provisions) is at <http://www.studentpirgs.org/textbooks/heoa/analysis> , but interestingly this law has no enforcement provisions. GAO is charged to provide a report to the Congress re institutional compliance due prior to June 2013; perhaps we will be audited for this one too.
- 5) Antivirus negotiations ongoing, Trend Micro has submitted bid for renewal of their contract.

Appendix I - Text from http://www.aaccbooks.com/site_affordability.asp

Your AACC Bookstore is one source for textbooks (we admit, it's our favorite!), but you can also buy textbooks from other students, online new and used book retailers, publishers and commercial retail bookstores. **Here are some points to remember while shopping...**

- **Make sure to verify the ISBN in addition to title, author, edition and publication date. The ISBN is the key identifier of a title, and is the best information to use when searching the open marketplace for your textbooks. We list ISBNs on the AACC Bookstore Web site, or you can find the ISBN on the back cover of a textbook or inside along with the copyright information. We want you to get the right book, whether you buy it from us or not. If you have trouble finding the ISBN, ask our bookstore staff or your instructor.**
- **Buy used when possible. Used books typically save you at least 25%, sometimes more, off the cost of a new textbook.**
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- **Bundles can be bargains BUT... You may find that your textbook is "bundled" in a shrink-wrapped package with other learning materials such as a study guide, software, or a pass code. If you have a choice between buying a textbook by itself, or in a package, make sure you will need all the materials in the package. While these extra learning materials can be of great value, they are often non-returnable once opened. If you have questions about buying a bundle, get input from your instructor or your bookstore staff.**