

PCAS Textbook Subcommittee

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Meeting Agenda

1. Subcommittee charge and scope
2. Subcommittee chairmanship
3. Subcommittee membership
4. Meeting schedule
5. Subcommittee web site
6. Next steps

Attendees

- Stephen Burd
- Regina Carlow
- Glenna Doctor
- Moira Gerety
- Greg Heileman
- Diane Marshall
- Sonia Rankin
- Melanie Sparks
- Jonathan Wheeler

Minutes

A summary of discussions and decisions follows.

Subcommittee Charge

- Greg distributed the following charge from Chaouki which was discussed by the committee.
 - *The charge of this committee is to examine the cost of textbooks for UNM students, and to survey novel approaches that may help bring the cost down while being mindful of the impact of such approaches on the UNM bookstore revenues. Based on this data, I would like the committee to propose initiatives and strategies (provide positive and negative aspects of each) that will help our students reduce their cost of attendance without sacrificing the quality of their education. Examples of such initiatives may include an educational campaign, e-books, open source material, renting, used books, or contracting with external book sellers.*
- The committee would like to consider changes to the charge in three areas:
 - Add an explicit emphasis on student success
 - Add an explicit constraint of compliance with ADA

- Expand the scope to “course materials” from “textbooks” and rename the subcommittee to match
- **Steve Burd will draft an updated charge for review by committee members and the Provost**

Draft Textbook Costs by Degree Program

- Greg distributed four draft spreadsheets that examine textbook costs for entire undergraduate degree programs.
- Costs for new books are relatively high and it appears that many faculty members are not aware of the total cost per semester or degree program. Raising awareness of the issue among faculty was identified as key strategy moving forward.
- Some possible errors were found in the spreadsheets. **Greg asked members to review the ones with which they’re most familiar and provide feedback directly to him.**

Subcommittee Chairmanship

- Steve Burd was asked by the Greg and Chaouki to chair the subcommittee. Steve provide details of a potential financial conflict to Chaouki in an earlier memo - specifically, Steve is a longtime textbook author who earns significant income from royalties. Chaouki replied that he is OK with Steve chairing the subcommittee provided that the conflict is disclosed and that it can be adequately managed.
- Steve reviewed the conflict specifics with the membership. Members were concerned with the appearance of a conflict of interest but also felt that the perspective of faculty textbook authors was needed on the committee. **Members felt that they are able to adequately manage the conflict as a group**, but agreed to Steve’s suggestion that a committee co-chair be named who lacks any financial conflict of interest. **Moira Gerety volunteered to act as co-chair and the members present unanimously accepted and confirmed the nomination.**

Wider Faculty and/or Student Representation on Subcommittee

- Members agreed that student representation is essential. They directed Steve to ask for a representative from ASUNM and GPSA. It was also suggested that Steve ask for a representative from ANTS. **Steve will follow-up with all three organizations.**
- Options for expanding faculty representation were discussed. The primary concerns were broadening the committee memberships to include additional academic disciplines including:
 - Humanities
 - Organization, Information & Learning Sciences (OI&LS)
 - North campus – Law and Nursing
 - Education
 - Architecture & Planning
- **Steve will contact administrators in all but the first area. Diane will speak with humanities chairs within A&S.** At least three additional faculty members are needed/expected.

Meeting Schedule

- The subcommittee anticipates completing its work by the end of the spring semester. Meetings for the fall semester are scheduled for 11-noon in ASM 2141 on the first and third Thursdays of October, November, and December (October 2 and 16, November 6 and 20, and December 4 and 18).
- Members wanted to hear from one or two textbook publishers to gather their perspectives and current efforts to control textbook and related costs. Steve will try to schedule two publisher presentations at meetings in October or November.

Subcommittee Web Site

- The current web site is located at <http://averia.unm.edu/PCasTextbooks>
- Members are satisfied with the structure of the current site and its use to record committee activities and provide links to needed resources.
- **Melanie offered to provide additional links to various information about textbook cost control and related topics.**
- Any members may provide materials or links for the web site.
- **Steve and Glenna will act as web masters and all requests for additions/updates will be routed through them.**