

## Bookstore Advisory Council Meeting

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

2:30PM

Auxiliary Services Conference Room

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Sally Weerts, Kris Webb, Ozzie Vasquez, Joseph Martin, Kristina Kanhai

**Members Absent:** Casey Hampton, Margaret Partyka, Lois Scott, Brandon Alanis, Torreon Miles

**Others Present:** Vince Smyth (Auxiliary), Sabrina Foust (Auxiliary), Steve Moreau (Follett), Lee Cobb (Follett)

The meeting was called to order at 2:35PM by Sally Weerts (Chair)

#### 1. Approval to Record Meeting

- All were in agreement that the meeting could be recorded.

#### 2. Approval of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Minutes

- Joseph Martin moved and Kristina Kanhai seconded that the minutes of September 28, 2009 be approved as written. Unanimously approved.

#### 3. Ratification of Vice Chair

- Sally informed the Council that Joseph Martin has been ratified as the Vice Chair of the Council by the Office of President Delaney.

#### 4. Facilities Report

- Vince informed the Council that there was little to report as there have been no real changes since the last meeting.
- Vince did ask if members knew there is a small store run by Follett in the University Center that carries items for the Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM). This store supplies police paraphernalia and other related items for sale to attendees at IPTM courses.
- Sally asked about sales for such a unique shop. Steve Moreau responded noting that the shop is opened 3 days a week and brings in about \$50,000 a year in business. This is really a service provided by Follett as it is certainly not a money maker.

#### 5. Open Access Textbooks

- Vince informed that about a year ago the Florida legislature asked the Board of Governors and the Board of Education to look at Open Access textbooks as a possible method to reduce the cost of education for students. A 23 member state-

wide task force was formed and met by conference call a number of times with a report currently being finalized to be presented to the legislature.

- Open Access Textbooks are now available on-line through Orange Grove Repository. Essentially this repository gets author permission to post and allow anyone to download for free. While e-books or digital books are similar, controls are in place to charge for the download and restrict what can be printed and for how long the book can be viewed.
- One issue discussed by the Task Force was how to involve university faculty, not only to have them adopting open access texts but also to develop these materials.
- The Task Force looked at State-wide enrollment numbers to see if there were subjects where there could be the biggest impact.
- It was noted that currently there is not a lot of credit given to faculty members for on-line type publications and the Task Force recognized this would need to be given more weight for tenure and other criteria.
- This has the potential to affect university bookstores. Currently universities get commissions based on sales revenue and if Open Access becomes popular, these sales will reduce. However, being able to save the students on their course materials is the overriding factor.
- Sally asked what the long term effect of this program would be for the authors as typically they receive payment to be published. Vince noted the Task Force discussed this issue and hoped that universities could put funds aside to give to faculty or a department as an incentive to produce these materials.
- A faculty survey was conducted by the Task Force and found that only about 50% of faculty knew about open access textbooks.
- Open access, while free to the public to download, is not free as there are costs to maintain such a system. One model talked about for funding was charging a "lab fee" for courses that adopt an open access text.
- Sally informed that normally new books take approximately 3 years to publish, then they are obsolete and revisions are necessary in another 2 years. Vince noted that an open access text could allow authors to change the text when revisions are necessary.
- Kris Webb noted this would be a great idea for disability students as they could change the size of text to what they need and there are likely benefits to the students with dyslexia or MS. Kris also noted that from the faculty member's view, to get tenure requires being published and this might be a good method if more widely accepted.
- Sally suggested that members of the Council Google "Open Access" to get more information.
- Vince also noted that Council could check out the Orange Grove Repository on-line.

## 6. Operational Report

- Steve provided a brief overview of sales, noting that year-to-date sales are up by 8% from last year. Food product sales are down which is attributable to the move of the bookstore away from the center of campus. Course supplies are up 53% which is likely due to the enhanced art supplies section in the new store. Sally

- commented that previous Councils had encouraged the bookstore to enhance the art supply section so this is good news. Steve noted that clothing has also seen a 32% increase in part because of the new Nike products the store is now carrying.
- Lee Cobb stated textbook sales are up 5.7%. New textbook sales are down but used textbook sales are up. The big increase has been seen from the new rental program. This program is estimated to have saved students about \$1.2 million. Steve noted that the overall increase in sales is mostly due to increasing the market share as students are renting from the UNF bookstore instead of buying elsewhere.
  - Follett had a third party conduct a survey which showed a 95% approval with the rental program.
  - Kris asked what happens if students do not return the books. Vince noted that essentially, if the book is never returned, a student would end up paying 125% of the books value, including the original rental cost.
  - Sally asked if there were students who had not returned their rentals. Lee noted that there were about 100 such students.
  - Ozzie wondered about e-mail notifications and when they were sent out to students to remind them to return. Steve replied they are sent out in mid November telling students they are due December 21<sup>st</sup>. The bookstore actually pushed this back to December 28<sup>th</sup>. Of the 6,908 that were rented, 600 were not returned by deadline and the credit card used to rent the book has been charged. Currently, only 82 are still unaccounted for and have been taken to Collections. There is a contract involved with the rental.
  - Steve noted that if the book was lost before December 21<sup>st</sup> and the student informed the bookstore, the student would only be charged for the full price of the book. Vince noted that the Bookstore is expected to have all the titles in quantities needed for the start of a term and when students don't return a book the Bookstore expects to place, there are extra costs in sourcing and expediting delivery of textbooks to meet this expectation.
  - Steve distributed a jacksonville.com article re text rentals (see attached).
  - Lee informed that an enhancement to the rental program expected for fall term will be to allow the renting of books online. This will allow students to simply bring their ID into the store to get their books.
  - Kris expressed a concern with the potential of books not available due to students not returning rented texts. Lee answered that if books are not returned, the bookstore immediately orders to ensure this is not an issue.
  - Vince noted that the bookstore had about 20% of the adopted titles available for rent. This is expected to increase as the program becomes more widely accepted.
  - Lee noted that it is acceptable for students to highlight and make notes in the rental books.
  - Joe brought up an issue with the UNF Follett website as he found it hard to navigate or to find from the UNF main site. Vince surmised that perhaps a link is broken and asked Joe to send those link information to him.

## 7. Emerging / Other Issues

- Kris Webb asked about electronic / digital texts and their popularity and noted that a diminished number of hard books means her department has to hire readers to put the text on cassette.
- Lee noted that there are more e-books available than in previous years and that he asks professors if they want to adopt an e-book option, if it is available.

#### **8. Future Meetings**

- Unless a issue arises requiring an additional meeting, the next meeting of the Bookstore Advisory Council will occur during Fall Term.