Affordable Learning Solutions Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2015

Present: Sylvester Donelson Jr., Eduina Escobar, Marie Ibarra, James Murray, Corazon Napolis, Eric Neumann, Aline Soules, Jingwen Yang

Guest: Bookstore Manager (Jaime)

1. Approval of the agenda
   These were approved (Murray/Yang) with the following additions:
   OpenStax
   Report on BlackBoard capabilities

2. Approval of the minutes of Jan. 12, 2015
   These were approved (Murray/Napolis) with the following corrections:
   Missy Wright was elected Secretary, not Chair.
   Also present were Mavis Braxton-Newby and Marie Alexandra Ibarra

3. Report on Textbook Affordability Conference, Feb. 11-13, 2015

   Attended by Corazon Napolis and Aline Soules, the conference fell immediately after the Independent College Bookstores Association meeting and was partly sponsored by them. Following that was a half-day CSU-only meeting. Observing a show of hands at TAC 2015, approx. 70% or more of the attendees were independent bookstore managers. Despite that, there were good exchanges among the mix of attendees—bookstore managers, faculty, students, staff from various units such as Accessibility, Faculty services, and so on. It was interesting to hear bookstore managers' perspectives and to note their efforts towards transparency; however, also needed was representation from non-independent bookstore managers, such as Follett and/or Barnes & Noble. Publisher perspectives were also interesting, as were various partnerships among individuals trying to find cheaper alternatives for students. It was also interesting to hear more details about OER and free texts, financial incentives for faculty. As part of this discussion, Murray mentioned a recent Pearson book on Human Anatomy and Physiology, which offers new, more interactive options. There was quite a bit of data presented at TAC in various powerpoints. Soules will pursue the possibility of getting those slides.

4. OpenStax display

   Feedback about OpenStax books has come almost entirely from biology faculty. The quality of these books has been questioned and that feedback has been sent to David Harris of OpenStax. Harris was an attendee at TAC 2015 and also lives in the Bay area and has offered to visit. The committee may take advantage of that at an appropriate time. Murray downloaded a text from the OpenStax site during

the meeting and began to identify possible improvements for Harris to consider. He will send feedback to Soules for forwarding.

5. BlackBoard

Neumann recently attended a conference of the Directors of Educational Technology – California Higher Education and inquired about metadata gathering to determine copyright compliance for PDFs uploaded into BlackBoard; however, no one has identified this capability as yet. Further, embedding the library automatically into every course is also not feasible currently. Neumann will continue to ask about this when possible. Possibly, a request can be mounted by this committee at some point in the future. Meanwhile, other features are being developed, e.g., tracking and analyzing student feedback on classes.

Following this was a discussion initiated by Murray on how faculty can communicate earlier with their students about textbook options. Right now, faculty must wait for BlackBoard to open. It then emerged that options available from the bookstore are not always noted by students. Discussion about improving notification continued.

6. Discussion of draft document containing issues/concerns from students, staff, and faculty

The rest of the meeting was devoted to discussion of various items on this document. Soules will re-write the draft with suggested improvements and clarifications.

7. Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2015, noon – 1:50 p.m., location to be determined. At that meeting, the following will be included in the agenda: review of the bookstore adoption form with a view to offering faculty more "prompts" to clarify their requirements/options; a demonstration of the bookstore's new tool, Faculty Discover.