

SADDLEBACK COLLEGE BOOKSTORE COMMITTEE MEETING



Monday, October 18, 2010

3:30-4:30pm

SSC 211C

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 3:33pm

- I. Review of Book Loan Program
 - By all accounts successful!
 - Student Development works with the Library and Bookstore to coordinate based on criteria set out by the Bookstore Committee in previous years.
 - Books will be ordered for the spring at the end of the fall semester.
 - The Library works with us to return unused books and to purchase those that are needed more.

- II. Review of Auxiliary Services Survey
 - Survey link:
 - LINK: <http://sc-scan-ext.saddleback.edu/classclimate/index.php?mca=online/index/index>
 - PASSWORD: aux10
 - Initial review in committee.
 - All members received a PDF of the survey and will return in November with questions for the Bookstore.
 - Creative solutions are sought.
 - Further notes both from the meeting and previous affordability discussions:
 - Though the bookstore would certainly disagree, we are actually fortunate to have competition from purveyors such as Amazon. The only issue there is access – there are many associated issues with ordering from such websites (delivery time, access to credit card, correct editions, return issues, etc.)
 - Our Board of Trustees actually advocated for using the commission to give every student back cash instead of using it for the essential programs the budget now funds. Every student would receive back about \$8 (from our estimates), and who does that help? We have students who can afford their texts and the commission supports valuable scholarships, activities, events, and programs to benefit the student body in general. Should we do away with this? Do away with the Book Loan Program? Would that make textbooks more affordable in the end? The prices remain the same.
 - The claim that the commission drives up textbook prices would seem to initially make sense but is for the most part unfounded – if we didn't receive the commission, Follett would simply keep these funds that represent just a fraction of their profits. It's also essentially good marketing for Follett and presents a good scapegoat for textbook prices. The impact is negligible.
 - The bookstore is a business and any bookstore we contract with would run on a similar business model. The publisher sets prices to generate profit, and the bookstore does the same to profit while running a brick and mortar operation.
 - We expect the bookstore to offer a service to our students (faculty too), kind of like a non-profit, similar to our other "student services" with the cost of operation assumed by the college. To some extent it's up to the Bookstore Committee to ensure that we

generate the best deal for our students, but as the bookstore is a business, we also need to recognize the associated costs as such. Imagine the costs associated with book adoption and implementing the Higher education Opportunity Act alone. We pay for this service from Follett. In all, we do have competing interests represented here.

- A remedy eventually would be to open a non-profit co-op, but the College would have to assume much of the operating expenses and it would still not be able to compete with the Amazons out there. I can guarantee that our pay and benefits package for staff that we'd hire to run a bookstore ourselves would bankrupt the operation.
- The *good news* is that the textbook world is rapidly changing. There are many affordable options out there for students, including private online rental programs. Eventually, most books will be digital, and even fully incorporated into systems like Blackboard.
- For now, I imagine that when we go to bid on the bookstore contract next year we will see a huge decrease in any offered commission due to these new options and decreased book sales. Our college will then have to figure out how to fund essential programs and activities that have benefited from this budget. The real tragedy will be to see no budget for campus life, activities, co-curricular programs, and scholarships.
- The Bookstore Committee is looking at the Auxiliary Services Survey that I administered and is asking many of these questions. How can we devise creative strategies beyond the Book Loan Program, EOPS/VETS book vouchers, and the rental program to make texts more affordable? Any ideas are welcome!

III. Bookstore Report

- Next meeting.

IV. Issues or Concerns to discuss?

V. **Next Meeting – November 15, 2010 – 3:30pm, SSC 211C**

Meeting adjourned at 4:25pm

Committee Membership:

Deborah Armstrong – Faculty, Library

Doug Barr – Faculty, CSSP

*Barbara Belyea – Faculty, HSHS

Chris Clafin – Faculty, ATAS

*Audra DiPadova – Student Development, Chair

Ann Floresca – Bookstore Manager, Follett

Jennifer Higginson – Faculty, PEKA

*Kalon Morris -- Faculty, MSE

*Terence Nelson – Assistant Dean, CSSP

Lori Parra – EOPS (Classified Senate)

Andrea Richard – Text Manager, Follett

*Stephanie Sorenson – Faculty, MSE

Stacy Zapko – Regional Manager, Follett

ASG Student Reps – Andraya, Paris, Rahil