

## **Textbook Affordability Committee Meeting**

### **Spring 2023 Minutes**

Virtual Meeting – March 23 at Noon via Zoom

Committee members present:

Jackie Griggs (Chair), Justin Harris (Follett bookstore manager), Ann Gentile, Seth Mose, Rebecca Moore, Chrystal McDonald, and Cindy Fritsch

#### **I. Approval of Fall 2022 October 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

The Chair began the meeting with a review and a request to approve the minutes of the fall 2022 meeting. Rebecca Moore moved to approve and Ann Gentile seconded. The meeting minutes were approved by the entire committee.

#### **II. Textbook Adoptions – Summer & Fall 2023**

The Chair stated that textbook and course material adoptions are already complete for the summer and fall 2023 semesters. Eight missing sections are not considered default on the part of any faculty or administrators, according to Justin Harris, the Follett bookstore manager. Essentially, the college achieved 100% adoption by the March 15 textbook adoption deadline. Last fall (2022), 100% was achieved. This spring (2023), the 100% textbook adoption was achieved even earlier. Justin Harris shared that 100% is not common with colleges. He praised Blue Ridge CTC's efforts, stating that we are ahead of pace. The deadlines work with Finance deadlines as well.

Justin Harris reported that at least 90% of the time, a faculty member uses the same textbook and this makes a carry-over from semester-to-semester easier. Adoptions have been smooth and Justin Harris is working to make them even easier each semester.

#### **III. OER Resource – XanEdu / FlexEd**

The Chair previously had sent a faculty announcement via HR with information about the XanEdu / FlexEd OER resource. She asked Justin Harris to review this for the committee. XanEdu is a reputable publisher. They work with OpenStax. McGraw-Hill does one as well. He said it appears counter-intuitive for the bookstore to support OER, but he said, "Our goal is to do whatever we can do to provide what the students need." He said conversations with faculty generated this printing option. These resources often have advanced search features and function well within our Blackboard LMS. The cost is very economical (\$30-\$40). It is an inexpensive option for the students and creates a "better overall learning environment" for students. He said that conversations with students have been positive.

Content can be customized. The Chair asked if faculty are using the material (such as XanEdu) as the primary OER course material option. The answer from Justin was yes, mostly. Some faculty are figuring out how to incorporate the OER material within classes. Justin Harris reported that none of these are Follett products, rather they are partners. Ann Gentile asked about the OER for the ENGL 102 course. Justin explained the options and the availability for improvement.

The committee had a general conversation about issues of students finding OER textbook quizzes (and answers) online, which corrupts the assessment uses of those integrated quizzes.

#### **IV. OER Resources**

The Chair shared a list of additional OER resources with links for faculty and reviewed some of the resources so the committee members could see what is available.

**V. Follett ACCESS**  
Spring 2024 deadline is August 31

This announcement seems early, but the deadlines come very early for future semesters for planning. The Chair asked Justin Harris to briefly explain the Follett ACCESS program. The college uses the “inclusive access model.” He said that it has been a positive experience at the college. “It is our guarantee that the student will have access to course materials on the first day of class,” he said. Textbooks and course materials in the Follett ACCESS program always have a discounted price and often the best price out there, depending on the publisher.

About 12-15% (MATH being the largest course discipline) of the college’s courses that participate in the Follett ACCESS program. Other participating degree programs include communication, culinary arts, and accounting. The Chair included the adoption guide for Follett ACCESS in the meeting packet.

**VI. Bookstore Surveys**

The Chair shared the current faculty and student surveys with the committee. The Chair asked for proposed revisions to the surveys and the survey questions from committee members. She asked that proposed revisions be emailed to her or discussed in Teams in the Textbook Affordability Committee channel by an April 4 deadline.

For the survey distribution in April 2023, the Chair will publish them April 17 to 28 using Google Forms to faculty and students. The results will be shared with Justin Harris.

Rebecca Moore suggested that when Justin Harris attends Faculty Council, he uses the Poll tool in Zoom to ask a few survey questions to the faculty. This is a great way to get instant feedback from a large group gathered at Faculty Council.

**VII. Reports**

Follett

Justin Harris shared an excellent PowerPoint presentation that summarizes much of what we already discussed in this meeting. His presentation is designed and delivered in an easy to understand format that can be distributed to the entire faculty community.

Faculty

No report from faculty.

Finance / Registrar

Cindy Fritsch reported that the spring 2023 everything went well. Finance did not have any issues, even with 8-week classes. Justin Harris did say that there is trend (not just at Blue Ridge CTC) of students who are waiting to purchase textbooks and course materials. Accommodations are made for students as issues occur. There are few, he reported.

**VIII. Additional Items**

There were no additional items.

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.