

To: Faculty Senate

From: Mike Boyer & Bookstore Committee

Date: January 10, 2006

Re: Procedure to Increase Used Bookstore Offerings

Present were Mike Boyer, Brian Blitz, Lynn Shepherd, Sara Hagen and Tom McBrien on 9th. Sara and her assistant, Tia Anderson, provided an information packet.

The committee identified a procedure to offer more used textbooks while preserving a sufficient profit margin to cover the bookstore's operating costs. The committee discussed the following procedure(s) to increase the used book offerings:

- 1) If a faculty member wishes to commit to using a textbook for more than one academic year, then the bookstore will consider purchasing copies for use in the future semesters; buying them back for a reasonable amount; and reselling them at a significant discount. Tom and Sara are exploring various business models (2 yr or 4yr commitment, etc.)
- 2) This procedure would be voluntary and not infringe on academic freedom. It can save students money and prevent faculty from having to revise syllabi for frequent new editions.
- 3) For sufficient economies of scale, only repeating core and/or GER courses with sufficient enrollment/sections (20 or more) would be worthwhile candidates.
- 4) To date, Sara has identified several core courses that are good candidates and will share them at our February meeting (date TBA). Sara and Brian Blitz (and the Math department) are already working successfully with the 055 text.
- 5) The bookstore requires some security and certainty before buying large numbers of textbooks. Thus the committee discussed making a form agreement (contract) that the faculty member and appropriate Dean and Dept Chair would need to sign.
- 6) Committee members will get feedback from their departments on this overall procedure, the benefits, and potential drawbacks.
- 7) Sara's information packet may be reformatted for posting at the bookstore's website to increase faculty and student awareness of issues. Any faculty member interested in using the same textbooks for a repeating core course should get in touch with Sara.
- 8) The Provost has offered that an additional column on the existing textbook order forms with signature lines might indicate a faculty's intention to use a textbook longer term. The bookstore staff has some suggestions and wishes to proceed methodically and address the next phase in late January or early February with the Textbook Committee