

February Academic Standards Meeting
Minutes
February 3, 2012

In Attendance: Dr. Peggy Romeo, Dr. Eileen DeLuca, JoAnn Lewin, Dr. Ron Smith, Natala Orobello, Cindy Enslin, Dr. Christy Gilfert, Dr. Ann Eastman, Kathie Morris, Sara Dustin, Dr. Rosalind Jester, David Luther, Dr. Maria Cahill and Dean of Students Pat Newell.

Discussion opened on reworking the COP on textbook adoptions.

1. Dr. David Luther wanted to express his STRONG approval of the new COP to choose his own textbooks. It is his strong belief that the core of effective education is academic freedom, which in itself produces the best instructors. He votes to put forward a proposal to allow individual campus to select their own textbooks, and also to allow full time individual instructors to choose his or her own textbook. Full time instructor at each campus should also choose the text used by adjuncts, and approval should go via the chairs of each department.
2. Dr. Maria Cahill said that professor should choose their own textbook. Perhaps a common text for all sections of a course and then supplemental would be left to the individual professor.
3. Director Morris asked if the selection would be by department or individual.
4. Dr. Eastman had inquired whether the individual would have the right to select a supplemental or main text.
5. Dr. Maria Cahill is talking about a main textbook.
6. Director Morris asked what would happen if the student failed the first attempt at a course and then moved on to another instructor for a retake.
7. Professor Orobello said that a professor should be able to choose what best fits their style. The branch campuses often get outvoted on textbooks.
8. Dr. Romeo asked about the cost to a student who must go through two or three levels of a sequential course with different textbooks. What is the extra cost to the student?
9. Dr. Cahill said that there should be a selection of the textbooks for the adjunct by the full-time faculty.
10. Professor Lewin said that there is a potential catastrophe if the sequential courses would allow a different book for each professor. Also, what if instructors use different software for their course. What if the students accidentally open a book or software but then switches to another section? The bookstore will not buy back. Not to mention the array of online textbook possibilities.
11. Dr. DeLuca said that the College Prep. covered the problem by offering a main textbook and then having classroom sets of supplementary textbooks for each individual professor.
12. Dr. Cahill said that English professors should have a choice. It is different with science and mathematics.

13. Dr. Eastman asked about online components. Should there be different textbooks for online.
14. Dr. Jester said there is a different textbook for online Oceanography. This causes a problem and she is trying to standardize them.
15. Dr. Romeo said they are trying to consolidate the number of offerings in Biology. The state statutes on the cost of textbooks must be observed.
16. Pat Newell said that financial aid will have a nightmare with all of the different sections having different textbooks.
17. Dr. Cahill said that there could be a library of professor-selected supplemental texts that provided by the department on the web. The professor could then just point the student to the online download of the particular textbook to be used in the section for that particular professor.
18. Dr. Romeo said that the process will not work in the sciences and that she would dissuade use of required supplemental in the sciences.
19. Dr. Cahill said that if all the district sections had a main text and if each professor could have their own required supplemental that would be OK with her.
20. Dr. Romeo said that the department chair should have a sign-off on the supplemental and that the professor should be responsible for filling out the bookstore order form.
21. Professor Orobello asked if the COP prohibited the use of required supplemental by individual professors, and most agreed that it appears that it did not.
22. Professor Lewin wanted to make sure that a stricter COP would set boundaries while allowing individual professors to provide for required supplemental.
23. Dr. Romeo said that a professor's portfolio should include an appendix on why an alternate textbook was used.
24. The committee was asked about including the words "or failing" in the COP on attendance. No one objected. This will be forwarded to VPAA.
25. Dean Newell wants the committee to look at grade grievance COP at future meeting.
26. Next meeting will be March 2nd at 2 PM. The topic will be looking at a revised COP on textbook adoption and a COP on Course Substitutions.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM.