

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES**DATE:** February 29, 2024

PRESENT:	Suzette Nynas	Matt Queen
	Mara Pierce	Jennifer Lynn
	Debra Schoenfeld	Scott Gorman
	Susan Gregory	Kari Dahle-Huff
	John Pannell	Austin Bennett
	Paul Pope	Melissa Boehm
	Jim Barron (ex-officio)	Tami Haaland (ex-officio)
	Susan Gilbertz (ex-officio)	Tom Manthey (ex-officio)
	Sep Eskandari (ex-officio)	Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)
	Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)	Eileen Wright (ex-officio)

ABSENT:	Sarah Keller	David Russell (student)
	Ann Beste-Guldborg (ex-officio)	Vern Gagnon (ex-officio)
	Leslie Weldon (ex-officio)	Jana Marcette (ex-officio)
	<i>* excused</i>	

GUESTS:	Cheri Johannes	Kathleen Thatcher
	Andrea Aebersold	Ed Brown
	Lori Schmit, B&N College	Leslie Martin, B&N College

PRESIDING: Jennifer Lynn, Chair

Jennifer Lynn called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. online.

I. DISCUSSION WITH BARNES & NOBLE FIRST DAY COMPLETE

Lori Schmit presented the First Day Complete program. The main driver of the program is affordability, as well as convenience.

- Faculty select materials just as they have before, and they can be anything from print books to electronic materials, but only one format choice is allowed.
- Students only rent their books. At the end of the semester, they will have a chance to buy their books at a reduced rate.

- Increasing use of Open Educational Resources (OER) will drive the price of the program down, and B&N's prices have only gone down since this program began in 2017.
- MSUB's pricing will be \$24 per credit, \$360 for a 15-credit load.
- The books/materials are packaged for students here in-store, not in a warehouse somewhere else.

Ms. Schmit answered several questions:

As soon as MSUB faculty select the materials for a course, students can go on the webpage and see those books. Students can do their own price comparison, but B&N also shows them price comparisons at sign-up time (which are based on **new** book prices, not used).

The \$24 per credit price was derived from the materials faculty are currently using and averaging the price of those materials across all students. Students will see the price comparison using only new materials, not used. Ed Brown, B&N Liaison, noted that the University can choose to charge a fee on top of the B&N fee, but we are not doing that.

The day each semester that MSUB is billed by B&N is negotiable. It can be census/15th class day, or another day of MSUB's choosing. At that point (and before, as well), the store will be contacting students who maybe didn't know about the program that they have books to pick up. They will be making sure students don't get charged for things they don't need. B&N will bill MSUB at the agreed upon date and then MSUB, not B&N, will bill the students who did not opt-out.

The average opt-out rate for most campuses is 20%. If an abnormally high number of students do opt-out, it could raise the cost per credit. If a very high number of students opt-in, that can decrease the price per credit. The price per credit is set by B&N and can rise and fall over time.

Usually students who are not happy with the program just opt-out. The biggest complaint B&N receives is that students don't understand the program, so they have enhanced their marketing and worked directly with institutions to make it clear for students.

Once students are in the program, they tend to stay in it. However, third and fourth year students do tend to opt-out more because they have fewer materials, according to B&N.

The program does not allow for multiple modalities, so faculty select either a print or a digital book, for example. However, the store can work with individual students, especially those with a disability, to procure a different format. This is an additional cost for the student. It was requested that this process and communication be as transparent as possible for students before the program begins.

The question was raised as to why the Montana University System is not adopting the same book program, since we are in the process of transitioning our shared LMS. Sue

Balter-Reitz, Director of Online Initiatives for OCHE, noted that one of the main reasons for the shared LMS is because of the high transfer rate in Montana. Students would have a much more difficult time if they had multiple systems to deal with. Books and materials do not rise to the same level of student impact as the LMS. There was some clarification offered on how electronic course materials would be delivered to the LMS and how students can best access them (i.e., electronic but also PDF versions).

Third parties that pay for books, such as vocational rehab or veteran programs, will bill MSUB for those students' materials. This ends up being much easier for those students than the current processes.

A number of technical and Banner related questions were raised and will be sorted out in the future. Cheri Johannes, Registrar, noted that many vendors have had issues with our unique, shared instance of Banner and how integrating with that can be challenging.

Other materials that are not from a publisher, such as art supplies, will be procured through a different process. However, the store will be able to work with faculty on those materials as well.

Some academic programs do not actually have books, and those programs may be able to opt-out of the entire book program. There is no distinction between undergraduate and graduate credits. It was suggested that internship and student teaching credits should not be included in the calculation.

The U.S. Department of Education is talking about price transparency and opt-out vs. opt-in for book programs like this. However, any changes will likely be in 2026. Currently the program will be **only opt-out**, and they would have to build the capability to make it opt-in if the Department of Education required it.

First Day Complete is set to launch in Spring 2025. Faculty will be selecting books in the new system starting in October 2024.

In a couple weeks, B&N staff will be on campus for open forums.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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