

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES**DATE:** October 12, 2023

PRESENT: Suzette Nynas
Mara Pierce
Susan Gregory
John Pannell
Melissa Boehm
Jim Barron (ex-officio)
Ann Beste-Guldborg (ex-officio)
Sep Eskandari (ex-officio)
Leslie Weldon (ex-officio)

Matt Queen
Jennifer Lynn
Kari Dahle-Huff
Austin Bennett
Vern Gagnon
Tami Haaland (ex-officio)
Vicki Trier (ex-officio)
Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Debra Schoenfeld*
Paul Pope*
Susan Gilbertz (ex-officio)
Jana Marcette (ex-officio)

Scott Gorman*
David Russell (student)
Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)
Eileen Wright (ex-officio)

* *excused*

GUESTS: Cheri Johannes**PRESIDING:** Jennifer Lynn, Chair

Jennifer Lynn called the meeting to order at 3:43 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

ResearchFest is tonight, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Craft Local.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 28 were accepted as presented.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Campus Store Conversion to B&N Management and Book Fees

Leslie Weldon, Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance; Aaron Beckman, Barnes & Noble College; Ed Brown, Director, Admissions

Vice Chancellor Weldon stated they are very excited about the conversion of the campus store to Barnes & Noble, and the plan is to meet with groups across campus over the next couple months. They met with the student government on Tuesday, and the students were enthusiastic about the change.

Mr. Beckman reported they arrive this Monday with their implementation team. Their program, First Day Complete, is intended to level the playing field for all students in terms of the cost of books. They have partnered with 157 schools. Students really appreciate the convenience of having their books bundled and ready before classes begin. They can pick up the books at the campus store or have them shipped to their home.

Mr. Beckman explained each student pays a fee of \$24 per credit for books—the same rate for undergraduate and graduate. This is based on the general market rate for books. Students may opt out of the program if they want, and some definitely will, as it will not save them money, but students with expensive course materials will save a lot. The opt-out is not based per course. Students are either all-courses-in or out. However, the program is set up each semester, so students can opt out one semester and then join the program the next semester. He noted that students are shown what they will save, or pay, when they opt out of the program. Students have until census day to join or opt out of the program, as well. So, if they add a course late, they can still utilize the program to save money. B&N will also work with MSUB to identify students who are not responding to contacts from B&N.

Some high cost programs may be excluded from the B&N program, as they will drive up the cost for all students. Likewise, if a program mostly uses no books or Open Educational Resources, that program may want to be excluded from the B&N program.

Faculty will be asked to identify one book format, rather than options between a hardcover or e-book. This helps keep costs down. B&N can also handle software.

The question was raised about art courses that have materials put together by faculty, paid for through a course fee, but students pick them up from the campus store. Mr. Beckman confirmed that they can handle that, but faculty may also keep doing it separately from the campus store if they wish.

Mr. Beckman stated that the B&N program is a rental model, so students must return books, again, to keep costs down. If students wish to keep their books, they must buy them out. However, there is not a fee or penalty for keeping the books. If students keeping their rented books becomes a problem, B&N may need to renegotiate, but they will not go after students. Faculty also have the option to inform students they must buy

the book and keep it throughout their academic program—this is called “new only.” Vice Chancellor Weldon noted that the communication to students must be very clear that this is a rental model, and that the books will now be paid for through a fee, instead of a separate transaction.

Mr. Brown noted that there is a federal requirement that students can know the price of their books *before they register*. We have not been able to do that, so this B&N program will allow us to better meet federal regulation. Students will know that books will cost them, at most, \$24 per credit. This also gives MSUB an advantage over other institutions in Montana.

The question was raised as to how students opting in or out of the program may affect what MSUB pays B&N. Ms. Weldon stated that it does not. Mr. Beckman stated that B&N reads the market and it is expected that some students will opt out, and that some programs won’t need to use the B&N book store at all.

Mr. Beckman also noted that B&N will be reviewing MSUB enrollment data and course caps to make predictions about how many books will be needed. Books will still be available a la carte in the campus store for late adds and the like. They also have the ability to get a book shipped to Billings within 2-3 days, if the book is not already in the campus store.

It was noted that MSUB will need to change the deadline for adopting course materials, to happen before registration. Previously, many faculty chose their books for the coming year in May and June, but now they will need to be set by March 1.

They aim to start this new book rental program by Fall 2024.

It was suggested that tutorial videos for faculty on materials adoption should be a high priority. Vice Chancellor Weldon noted there will be a campus task force with students and faculty. Timelines will need to be built. It was cited that we need to emphasize to faculty that this is a rental model with only one format, selected by the faculty member.

Contact either Vice Chancellor Weldon or Mr. Brown (who will be the liaison for this project in the future) with questions. The faculty union representatives are also meeting with B&N next week, so questions can be sent to them, as well.

IV. PROVOST REPORT

Provost Eskandari reported that the Belong & Be Well initiative is moving forward, spearheaded by the Center for Teaching and Learning. It is proposed that we hold a well-being summit in conjunction with the September 2024 BOR meeting, which will be at MSUB.

Dr. Eskandari is excited that The College Experience course is moving forward. It’s an incredibly valuable experience for our students, as is Gen Ed.

The Learning Management System transition to Canvas is moving along. An implementation committee including faculty, Registrar Cheri Johannes, IT, and IR has come together. There is a lot up in the air, including when our current contract ends, which will influence when we transition to Canvas. It may end up being Summer 2025. John Pannell volunteered to pilot a course with Canvas.

Provost Eskandari thanked Cheri Johannes for making the Fall Break work. It has been very well received by faculty and students.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

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