

Revised

COMMITTEE: Admissions & Retention Policies

MEETING DATE: August 28, 2017

PERSON PRESIDING: John Stiller and Jay Newhard

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Daniel Shouse, Gregory Lapicki, Beth Thompson, Pamela Hopkins, Guglielmo Fucci, and Jay Newhard

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Fletcher, Jayne Geissler, Amber Thomas, Amy Frank, and Stephanie Michelle Mortensen

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Stiller, Lori Lee

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: A welcome by the Chair of the Faculty, John Stiller

Discussion: The Chair of the Faculty, John Stiller, began the meeting with introductions and a review of the committee packet materials. In particular he went over the charge of the committee. He advised the committee to concentrate on a product, keep philosophical discussions to a minimum, read materials in advance, and to keep good records.

Agenda Item: Election of committee officers for 2017 - 2018

Discussion: The Chair of the Faculty, John Stiller, opened the floor to nominations for officers of the committee.

Action Taken: Jay Newhard was elected Chair, Beth Thompson was elected Vice Chair, and Guglielmo Fucci was elected Secretary.

Agenda Item: Consideration of a designation in Banner for courses that have zero textbook costs.

Discussion: The Chair of the committee started the discussion by summarizing, for the new committee members, the main ideas behind the proposal to designate in Banner courses with zero textbook costs. The committee members expressed opinions both in favor and against such designation. Beth Thompson mentioned that, as a result of an informal survey she conducted during the summer, students will heavily favor courses with zero textbook designation. Jay Newhard added that if students will tend to enroll in zero textbook courses then other instructor might be pressured to adopt zero cost textbook even if they believe the zero textbook option is of inferior quality. This, he added, might hinder academic freedom. An additional concern was brought forward regarding the additional housekeeping that would need to be done in Banner if the zero cost textbook designation was to be implemented. It was also pointed out by Daniel Shouse that the Library is working with publishers in order to provide students with access to e-textbooks. He also mentioned that as time goes by more and more e-textbooks might be available through the Library at no cost to the students. The student representative Stephanie Michelle Mortensen gave a student's prospective on the issue, stating that, in her opinion, zero textbook designation of a course would not play a major role into student's decisions on whether to take that course. She added that there are many factors that influence a

student's decision on what classes to take. It was also observed that the trend of zero cost textbooks is a reality and that students must have access to that information before they make a choice regarding what classes they want to enroll in. Once the comments ended John Fletcher moved that the committee vote on the zero cost designation. The motion was seconded.

Action Taken: The committee voted by "show of hands" on the zero textbook designation on banner. The outcome of the vote was as follows:

OPPOSED: 3 (Newhard, Fletcher, Thompson)

IN FAVOR: 8 (Shouse, Lapicki, Hopkins, Fucci, Geissler, Thomas, Frank, Mortensen)

The motion passed in favor of introducing a designation in Banner for courses that have zero textbook costs. The committee asked the Chair to task ITCS with preparing a sample Banner entry that would show the zero cost designation which could be brought to the Faculty Senate as visual aide.

NEXT MEETING: September 11, 2017