

## Textbook Rental Service Advisory Committee

Minutes from 10/26/10

### -Welcome

-Introduction of members

### -Discussion Issues:

- Textbook Rental Service Facility Update: saves time for students, no matter how many books. Going to try and open on Monday before class starts (in Jan.) rather than Thursday before.
- E-Book Information:
  - Research has been happening looking into the electronic book options available for students (many people are interested, but not very many answers)
  - Many variables to take into consideration (expiration of use, some have no charts, tables or graphics, etc., formatting of files, and rental of electronic reading devices to be used)
  - Mrs. Miller has been working with Eric Davidson to look into e-books in an academic setting, but there is little information available
  - Few academic books are available via e-books
  - Prices are more than just the EIU rental fees (more expensive for an e-book AND they expire) → textbook rental saves money, and many other schools are trying to follow our lead (so we're not 'behind' technology wise)
  - There was one study conducted in 2003: students were originally excited about using e-books for school, but after study, wanted nothing to do with them
  - Also to consider, Students involved with Disability Services → Some schools are experiencing law suits b/c these students cannot access/use the e-books
  - Overall, it is being looked into, but there are no time estimates as to when this could be a possibility
- Rental Options
  - Some companies are trying to rent textbooks, but their rental prices are still more than EIU's price
  - Purchase prices vary from websites and EIU's
- Revised Request for Textbook Purchase Form
  - Now teachers have to include additional information to request new textbooks to avoid buying a newer edition, yet with very little change in material
- Fall 2010 Textbook Purchases- \$1,334,000.00 –to date
- Current Textbook Inventory Value- \$8,000,000.00
- Possibility of having textbook fees waived:

- Has been considered before, but determined not to do
  - Administration decision, not textbook rental decision
  - Many people in thesis, internships, etc. come back and check out books for different projects to help them
  - Many students that take comprehensive exams also come back to check out books in order to help them prepare (generally get 15-20 books)
  - Also, many teachers may not assign a specific textbook, but they give a project/topic and say go get these books from the rental service
  - Those with a waiver, would not be able to do any of the above mentioned
  - Student Teaching: consider it over a period of time, and it builds up → They save money in the long run b/c they do not buy them
  - The fee is not just a rental fee, but an upkeep for the overall services provided
  - Similar to taxes → Not everyone benefits directly (i.e., school), but still have to pay them
  - Fees for student athletics and technology, but cannot waive those (even if you don't go to athletic events) → It's for the overall good
  - May change the name of the "fee" to help with misleading about what it is for (b/c it is not just to rent books)
- Space issues:
    - Have a little bit of space
    - Will be flexible with teachers if they want to keep a book for two years (just need to be in contact)
- If multiple books needed for class:
    - Suggest rental buy a couple and students buy a couple (split the fees)
    - Buy a few copies and put on reserve for students
- Old books
    - Retired books are either resold to publishers, sold to students anywhere from \$.25 to \$1.00, or recycled
    - Suggested that old books be sent overseas to third world countries
      - Have done this in the past, but some companies are frauds

\*Minutes Taken by Ms. Ashley Gumbel, GSAC Graduate School Student Dean and GSAC Textbook Rental Advisory Committee representative.