

Wayne State University  
Academic Senate  
Curriculum and Instruction Committee  
Meeting minutes  
December 12, 2018

Present:

Brad Roth, Chair	Donna Kashian
Robert Ackerman	Richard Pineau
Juliann Binienda	Michele Porter
Thomas Fischer	Liaisons: Paul Beavers (policy committee)
Jane Fitzgibbon	Bilal Hammoud (Student Senate)
Jeffrey Grynawiski	Nancy Welter (UPTF)
Robert Harr	Darin Ellis (Administration)

Guests: Joshua Neds-Fox, Coordinator of Digital Publishing, WSU Library Systems

Absent with Notice: Thomas Killion, Victoria Dallas, Meghan Courtney

Absent without Notice: Yang Zhao

I. Appointment of reporting secretary

Juliann Binienda has graciously agreed to be the recording secretary.

II. Minutes of the meeting on November 14, 2018 were read and approved. Correction to Jeffrey Grynawiski name misspelling.

III. Discussion of "First Day" electronic textbook proposal

Joshua Neds-Fox, Coordinator of Digital Publishing, WSU Library Systems began the discussion by sharing background to publishing companies' charging and raising fees for digital access. He explained that publishing companies prefer "monopolizing" their textbooks and other products through programs such as "First Day." He also expressed concern that the university would be locked into a contract with the publishing companies with students and/or faculty unable to opt-out. Reported that our C & IT is explicitly exploring broader initiatives for the entire university. These include Open Access and First Day options. He also recognized Darin Ellis for supporting the libraries Open Access plans and his efforts toward reducing textbook costs.

Brad Roth read remarks from Victoria Dallas which included concern regarding WSU collecting fees on behalf of the bookstore and regarding students' effective ability to opt in and out of the First Day program. Concerned that students will end up being unable to opt-out.

Much discussion ensued. Joshua mentioned that e-books are initially priced lower until the paper version price reduces and then e-books rise in price. Jane Fitzgibbon noted that textbooks are paired with keys to access online materials. Students don't feel as though they need the textbooks. Robert Harr asked about student views on OpenStax, which seems to be well-funded. Joshua explained that when students use access keys the data goes to the publisher for their LMS. First Day access is similar. Students essentially sign their privacy rights away. Less choice for students. Issues arise from using different textbooks for each section of a course. Joshua ended by stating that the WSU Library Systems support OER rather than First Day programs.

Bilal Hammoud reported that Student Senate has issued a formal opinion regarding open access materials. The biggest issue for students is financial. Feel strongly that there should be strong mandates for reducing cost. Support OER. Against First Day.

Brad Roth returned to Jeffrey Grynviski's motion to pilot test First Day access in the Spring/Summer semester of 2019. Richard Pineau questioned the follow-up after the pilot in terms of there being enough time to assess in terms of raises in costs over time, etc. Nancy Welter queried the purpose of First Day access and Bilal Hammoud questioned whether financial aid is affected by First Day programs. Darin Ellis responded that financial aid budgets are decided individually. After much discussion the committee decided that Spring/Summer semester is too soon for a pilot. Brad Roth asked for volunteers for a sub-committee to assess a fall pilot of the First Day access program. Volunteers: Jeffrey Grynviski, Donna Kashian, Tom Fischer, Jane Fitzgibbon. All committee members are invited to provide input to a draft assessment tool from the sub-committee.

Action items:

1. Brad Roth will look into inviting representatives from Financial Aid and OTL to a future meeting about textbook accessibility. Paul Beavers and Brad Roth will suggest that there be a presentation at an Academic Senate meeting regarding OER.
2. Bilal Hammoud will discuss OER with Student Senate and report back to the committee.
3. Joshua Ned-Fox invited to return to present on OER.

IV. Discussion of the process provided by the Student Code of Conduct process for pursuing academic dishonesty cases

The Committee decided to postpone this discussion to the January meeting. In preparation for that discussion, all Committee members are encouraged to read the Student Code of Conduct. Brad Roth will invite the DOSO to address the implementation of the Student Code of Conduct procedures at the February meeting.

V. Matters Arising

None at this time.

Meeting adjourned by Brad Roth.

Next meeting: 1-23-19 – 1:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Juliann Binienda