

Bookstore Advisory Committee – Year End Report

The Bookstore Advisory Committee was not entirely constituted until the beginning of December, so we did not meet until the spring semester. In the spring semester, we held two meetings on 2/2 and 3/1.

The charge of the Bookstore Advisory Committee is to facilitate communication between the bookstore and the faculty and to solicit feedback from the faculty concerning the bookstore. At our meeting on 2/2, we discussed the design of a survey to get faculty, staff, and student feedback on the bookstore's operation. We [brainstormed](#) ideas for the survey throughout the following month.

However, after the meeting of the Council committee chairs in February, I conveyed to the committee members that there seemed to be several committees planning surveys. In addition, at the February meeting, Michaelle Dirubio told us that the new course materials request system that was approved by Council in 2018, was going forward in the fall. Since the vast majority of faculty concerns involve course materials, we decided that we would postpone any survey until after the new system is implemented. We are also considering whether a focus group of users of the new system might be a more effective way to gain feedback.

Unfortunately, it seems that the implementation of the new system may be delayed again due to an update to PeopleSoft and some technical problems with Barnes and Noble. There is a meeting with Steve Nedder, Michaelle Dirubio and Barnes and Noble on May 11th to try to resolve these issues. Everyone on the RIC side is very supportive of the new system and agrees that it is well past time for it to be implemented. As chair of this committee, I sent Steve Nedder an email expressing my support for the new system and the significant faculty dissatisfaction with the current system as well as reiterating that it has the support of Council. Steve is a member of the committee as well and would also like to see the new system implemented.

The other issue that came to our attention in our March meeting was the need to communicate clearly the importance of faculty book orders for student success. While it is widely known that student financial aid from the college can only be used at the bookstore, there are many other financial aid sources that require purchase of materials at the bookstore. These include

- the Veterans Association
- RIAEYC- (Rhode Island Assoc. for the Education of Children)
- State of New York Education Dept.
- Office of Rehabilitation Services R.I.
- Narragansett Indian Tribe
- Dept. of Labor and Training R.I.
- Rhode Island Indian Council
- City of Central Falls

In addition, RIC students that apply for the Bookstore line of credit through MYRIC have those funds loaded onto their student ID cards.

Finally, Barnes and Noble donates \$10,000 per year in textbook aid funding that, again, can be spent only at the bookstore. This is administered through Learning for Life. In order to ask for aid, a student must go to the [Student Emergency Funds Request](#) page, check off only that they need funding for books and specify the amount. This fund is clearly underutilized since I heard many faculty comments that students were struggling to pay for books, yet when I spoke to Joise Garzon at the beginning of March, there was still around \$3700 of aid available.

We would like to publicize this fund, perhaps with an email to faculty at the beginning of the semester so that they can announce it to students.

The last issue we dealt with in our March meeting was that of commencement regalia prices. This was at the request of Kavinda Arthenayake, who expressed concern that our regalia was more expensive than at other colleges. Michaelle Dirubio made a table (shown on next page) that shows the regalia prices for all the colleges in Rhode Island. The discrepancy seems to be that RIC uses eco-friendly regalia, which is more expensive, while other colleges offer a choice. Our prices are in line with all the other colleges on the eco-friendly regalia. The switch to this regalia was made many years ago. I sent this information to Kavinda and said that decisions about regalia were not in the purview of this committee.

Caps & Gowns 2022				
	Baccalaureate	Contents	Masters	Contents
University of Rhode Island	\$30.00 Ours \$47.96	Cap/Gown/Tassel	\$ 60.00 Ours \$51.96	Cap/Gown/Tassel • Hood extra cost.
Bryant University	\$65.00 Their eco-friendly is \$83.95	Cap/Gown/Tassel/Hood	\$ 70.00 \$99.95 not eco friendly	Cap/Gown/Hood/Tassel
RISD				
Providence College	\$62.50 Free with the \$220.00 graduation fee Eco friendly \$83.95		\$65.50 \$99.95 not eco friendly	Cap/Gown/Hood/Tassel
NE Institute of Technology	\$44.00 Their Eco friendly is \$83.95	Cap/Gown/Hood/Tassel	\$47.50 \$99.95 not eco friendly	Cap/Gown/Hood/Tassel
Johnson & Wales University	\$50.00 \$63.50 not eco friendly	Cap/Gown /Hood/Tassel	\$60.00 \$66.79 not eco friendly	Cap/Gown/Hood/Tassel
Rhode Island College	\$81.98 Our eco friendly is \$86.98	Cap/Gown/Hood/Tassel	\$88.89 Our eco friendly is \$95.98	Cap/Gown/Hood/Tassel
Brown University	\$45.00	Cap/Gown/Hood/Tassel	N/A	