

Minutes for 11/11/25 meeting of the Fac Sen Budget and Resources Committee

The meeting began at 4:10 pm after some technical difficulties with Zoom.

- A quorum of committee members was present
- Chris Kinsley joined for a discussion of the Books 4 Success proposal
- Several non-B&R senators also joined.

The entirety of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the Books 4 Success proposal from Follet. This was an information gathering meeting with no votes taken or legislation moved.

Discussion outcomes:

- There are three main ways course materials can be provided to students currently
 - Students on their own to procure materials course by course- some to many students probably skip getting materials, cost hard to estimate.
 - Current Follet Access program- instructors can select materials to be provided to students and wrap cost into course fees. Similar to Books 4 Success but course by course and initiated by instructor.
 - The Books 4 Success model where everything is provided by Follet for every course- instructors still specify materials. Seems like an expansion of Follet Access from instructor selected courses to all courses.
- The Books 4 Success program would provide all books and course materials to all students for a flat per credit hour fee.
 - Pro's:
 - The value of getting books and materials to the largest number of students in the simplest way possible is clear.
 - Easy financing for students since cost wrapped into course fees that can be paid with financial aid.
 - Students can opt out (not course by course, whole program)
 - Cons:
 - Fee charged even if course doesn't use books (relies on instructor provided materials or materials freely available on internet).
- Cost vs benefits of program are unclear.
 - The value of providing students easy access to materials is clear. The cost required to do so is unclear.
 - There was a consensus that NMSU should act on proposition 01/25-26 to get an independent estimate of student book costs.

- Follet could probably provide a cost per credit hour of current Follet Access program when instructors elect to use the current program.
 - The cost of Books 4 Success is significant, ~10% of tuition (\$27 per credit hr over 15 hrs = \$405). NMSU should be certain that this provides value to students if putting this expense on students.
- Benefit to students over current Follet Access program where instructors can select automatic delivery of course materials is unclear.
 - Follet Access likely costs less since there is no charge for courses where there are no books / materials to purchase.
- **Final thoughts.**
 - The hour was well spent gaining a broader understanding of options for delivery of course materials to students.
 - Books 4 Success seems to take the current Follet Access system where faculty can provide a similar service on a course-by-course basis and make it universal, i.e. apply it to every credit hour.
 - **We failed to identify a problem with the current course-by-course system that would be fixed by expanding it to cover all courses.**
 - However, there is a risk of increasing costs for students by doing so. Without more information on current costs, it is impossible to determine this cost (or potential savings).
 - Therefore, the pending request for an independent cost estimate of student spending on books and course materials is important. Without this information it is impossible for NMSU to make a well-informed choice on how to effectively deliver books and materials to students in a cost-efficient manner.

The meeting adjourned at ~5:05p.

Minutes provided by S. Hanson