

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

Council of Deans Meeting

**Thursday, November 11, 2010
3:00 p.m. – Shiawassee Room**

~ Minutes ~

Members Present: Mary Jo Finney, Donna Fry, and Vahid Lotfi

Guest: Cherie Gray, Store Manager, Barnes and Nobel Bookstore

Gerard called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

New Textbook Rental Program and Digital Books ► Cherie distributed folders with changes that Barnes and Noble Bookstore has planned regarding textbooks. She explained that the use of digital books has increased slightly in the past year but it is expected to become more popular and increase significantly. ITS is working on NOOKstudy to provide students with a free software program for use on their PC or laptop. Books can now be rented for the semester with students being reminded of the due date several times prior to the end of the semester.

Digital books are just one option for textbooks. New and used books will still be available. There was a discussion on digital and rental books. Students can highlight or write in rental books and still sell them back to the bookstore. Damaged books (i.e., water damaged) would not be bought back. The University does not receive a percentage of textbook sales, but rather, the Bookstore has a lease with the University. Since DJ Trela was not able to attend the meeting, Cherie was asked to meet with DJ about the Bookstore's plans.

Matters Arising – Approval of Minutes from October 28 ► The minutes from the October 28 meeting were distributed at the meeting. Deans were asked to review minutes and notify the Provost Office of any changes or approval status.

Matters Arising – Fee Policy Committee ► Vahid provided an overview of the Fee Policy procedures and indicated that the Fee Policy Committee is an advisory committee to the Chancellor. The major change this year is that Chair is Professor Keith Moreland. The process for proposing new fees or increasing existing fees is that the department completes a form which then goes to the dean, the provost, and finally to the Fee Policy Committee for approval. There is no limit on how much the increase can be. Gerard shared that at Purdue there was one fee set for each major so the student knew what they were expected to pay. Some thought there should be a cap placed on fees. Some departments also seem to have been saving funds for future expenditures through the fees charged.

Matters Arising – TK20 Proposal ► The TK20 database system was discussed. With this system, each student is charged a \$99 fee per year. Students would then have access to their own information such as academic progress, program requirements, transcripts, test scores, and other information related to their courses. TK20 would not replace Banner. TK20 has been discussed throughout campus. Gerard thought that unless there is a good reason, we should not oppose it.

Matters Arising ► Vahid provided an overview of his international trips to Cairo and Tripoli. The plan was to explore collaborative study abroad relationships. Both were very open to cooperative agreements and having faculty exchanges. These Universities were especially interested in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. We have already received applications from students.

Gerard provided a brief report regarding his trip to Taipei, Taiwan with Jack Helmuth. He indicated that they met with 39 other university officials at the Jubilee Celebration – with the University of Michigan-Flint being just one of four from the United States. The trip was very productive.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30.