

UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XIV-M4

on Textbook Cost Availability

1. Motion presenter: Student Affairs Committee
2. Date of Faculty Senate discussion: 11/2/09
3. Rationale:

The website of AACRAO, the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, says at www.aacrao.org/ that, after several years of legislative debate, the Higher Education Act was reauthorized in August of 2008, by the passage of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (PL110-315). A key feature of the act, section 133, deals with the requirement for institutions to provide textbook information at the time a student registers for a course. The textbook provisions in HEOA take effect on July 1, 2010. Given the long lead time typical in the preparation of a course schedule, higher education institutions need to begin planning how their institution will meet these requirements. UNH, after discussions with the VPAA, registrar and CIS, has a plan in place to use the current UNH booklist now available through Black Board as the vehicle by which the university can comply with this law. The booklist will be linked to the online Time and Room Schedule (or web address given in the printed form) and will allow faculty to place the ISBN, publishing information and suggested retail cost along with the book title. The UNH booklist is linked to both book stores, and so faculty will be able to place book orders through the UNH booklist as well as be in compliance with making costs available. The Student Affairs Committee will work with CIS, to ensure ease of the UNH booklist access and use, and will solicit comments from faculty about problems or concerns next spring. The target for "good faith compliance" with this law is the use of UNH booklist by 80% to 85% of the faculty who use textbooks. This law applies only to faculty who use published materials that students must purchase.

4. Motion:

The Student Affairs Committee made a motion (1) that faculty use the UNH Booklist as the mechanism for compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (PL110-315, reauthorized in 2008) and (2) that the Faculty Senate charge the Student Affairs Committee with observing the use of the UNH booklist by faculty in the spring semester of 2010, assessing both ease of usage concerns as well as percent of faculty using the booklist.

5. Senate action: passed with twenty-five ayes, nine nays, and three abstentions.

6. Senate chair's signature: Pharis

Forwarded to: President Mark Huddleston, on Nov. 17, 2009

Forwarded to: Provost John Aber, on Nov. 17, 2009

Forwarded to: Terri Winters, Director of Academic Technology, on Nov. 17, 2009