

PROCEDURES MEMORANDUM

TO: MCC Staff

FROM: Office of the President

SUBJECT: Textbook Adoption Procedures

DATE: August 13, 2019

PURPOSE: Textbooks, both in hard copy or electronic form, are an important resource critical to student learning. They also provide faculty with an important teaching tool. As such, textbook adoption procedures affect all aspects of the teaching-learning process and involve many areas of the college.

With this background, the following procedures were developed to:

- Better implement and reflect the educational mission and philosophy of each department or program in alignment with the College mission.
- Provide for the best possible textbook for students at a reasonable price;
- Allow for more options in the selection of textbooks by faculty;
- Enhance communication between bookstore personnel and Academic Dean areas;
- Simplify the administration of textbook selection and distribution.

1. Definitions

For purposes of this PM, the following definitions will be used:

- A. Textbook - The principal resource required by the department/program for student use in a course.
- B. Ancillaries - Additional resources required by the department/program for student use in a course. These could include such things as electronic resources, workbooks, lab books, solution guides, etc.
- C. Supplementals - Resources that students can use but are not required by the instructor of a course.
- D. Department/Program - Faculty who teach in the same course prefix (e.g., ACCT, BIOS, CNST, etc.)
- E. Textbook Committee—Ad hoc committee established by the MCC Board of Governors to investigate textbook cost containment strategies

2. Common Course Outline

- A. The textbook selection process should begin with the development, adoption, and use of a common course outline. This outline must follow the prescribed format and include all the components designated by the College. There should be one outline per course for College-wide use.
- B. The adoption process developed for the course outline should include all full-time faculty for the course. It is the responsibility of the department to decide how adjunct faculty should be involved in this process.
- C. Once a common course outline has been adopted and placed on file in the offices of the appropriate Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs, it shall be the responsibility of the appropriate Dean and the department/program faculty to monitor the instructional process in order to ensure that the common course outline is basic to the instruction provided by each instructor (full and adjunct) assigned to the course.

3. Suggested Criteria for Selection

Individual departments/programs, in consultation with their Academic Dean, will set/define their policy for selecting learning resource materials for their courses. In this process, the following may be considered but not limited to:

- A. The selection process must reflect the college's mission; departmental/program philosophy, goals, and objectives as stated in the course outline; the nature of the discipline; faculty teaching needs; adjunct use of books/ancillaries; cost of books and materials to students (see section 4); copyright dates; and revision cycles.
- B. Departments/programs will select one standard textbook per course. Procedures for selecting other texts or a "no textbook" option are listed in section 5 below.
- C. The department/program must also develop criteria for the use of course ancillaries as defined above.
- D. Departments/programs with courses that are offered as a sequence over more than one quarter (e.g., Calculus I, II, and III; Accounting I and II, etc.) should make every effort to adopt a book that can be used for the entire sequence.
- E. Criteria for the selection of textbooks and ancillaries must be collectively adopted by the faculty in the department/program based upon the principle of consensus.
- F. It is the responsibility of the department/program to decide how adjunct faculty should be involved in their textbook selection process.
- G. When adopting textbooks for usage in concurrent enrollment courses, departments/programs should strongly consider high school textbook usage, given school districts often provide textbooks to their students free of charge and may have different adoption criteria and timetables. Alternate textbooks may be allowed and must be approved by an MCC academic representative. Alternative textbooks must meet or exceed the level of the approved MCC textbook.

- H. All criteria must be forwarded to the office of the appropriate Academic Dean.
- I. The department/program will communicate its selection(s) to the office of the appropriate Dean.
- J. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will develop a timeline for the textbook selection and adoption process.
- K. Criteria must be reviewed and/or updated on a regular basis or as needed.
- L. The Ad hoc Textbook committee will meet on an as-needed basis to review textbook adoption practices and procedures College-wide.

4. Cost Considerations

- A. A faculty member(s) or any other employee(s) in charge of selecting or adopting course materials shall, prior to selection or adoption of any course material, make a request for the following written information from the publisher of the course materials:
 - 1) A listing of relevant course materials offered by the publisher and whether each of the course materials are offered in bundled package or sold separately;
 - 2) The suggested retail price, the estimated whole sale price or the price that the publisher makes available to the public for the course materials. The publisher may include the time period during which the pricing is available.
 - 3) The copyright dates of the previous edition if the copyright date do not appear in the courses materials.
 - 4) A summary of the substantive content differences between the current edition of the course materials and the immediate previous edition.
- B. A faculty member(s) or any other employee(s) in charge of selecting or adopting course materials shall also consider the following:
 - 1) Availability of used textbooks
 - 2) The extent to which the textbook and/or course materials will be utilized in the course
 - 3) The availability of textbooks and course materials in digital vs. paper form and the cost to student
 - 4) The availability of Open Educational Resources and other lower-cost alternatives
- C. According to MCC's on site textbook vendor, average selling price for textbooks varies by condition as follows:
 - 1) New textbooks are the most expensive option
 - 2) Used textbooks on average are priced 18 percent lower than new textbooks
 - 3) New rental textbooks can be rented at a rate 16 percent lower than the price of a new textbook

- 4) Used rental textbooks can be rented at a rate 45 percent lower than the price of a new book, and 33 percent lower than the price of a used textbook
- 5) Digital versions of textbooks, on average, are priced 33 percent lower than new textbooks.

5. Use of Multiple Textbooks or No Textbook for a Course

Based upon the needs of the department/program, faculty may select more than one textbook for a course or allow a "no textbook" option for a course or section. This will be a decision of a department/program based upon the consensus of all full-time faculty in the department/program and the appropriate Academic Dean.

If this option is adopted by the department/program, the following criteria should be followed:

- A. All textbooks and ancillaries for a given course must be approved by the department/program faculty and the appropriate Academic Dean based on the criteria established by the department/program.
- B. A "no textbook" option, or use of open-source materials, for a course or section must also be based upon the established criteria.
- C. If more than one textbook is approved and selected for a course, the department/program must designate one textbook as the standard textbook for the course. This standard textbook must appear on the front page of the course outline. All other allowed texts must appear as an addendum to the course outline.
- D. This standard textbook will become the default textbook for a course. Adjunct faculty will use the standard textbook.

6. Textbook Selection

- A. In order to ensure that books are in the bookstore by the time the quarter starts, textbooks, ancillaries, and supplemental materials must be selected for each course at least three months before the course starts.

For those courses where multiple texts are allowed:

- 1) Faculty must inform the bookstore of their textbook, ancillary, and supplemental choice three months before the course starts. If a "no textbook" option is allowed, the faculty member opting for this must also inform the bookstore.
- 2) If a faculty member does not select a textbook within the required timeframe, the bookstore will assume that he/she will utilize the standard textbook for the course.
- 3) The appropriate Academic Dean's office will supply all faculty with desk copies and ancillaries for the standard textbook. Faculty who choose not to use the standard textbook will be responsible for obtaining their own desk copies and ancillaries. The office of the program Dean will assist in this process by providing any information needed.

7. Payment to faculty or other College employees for textbooks and/or materials

- A. No faculty member or employee shall demand or receive any payment, loan, advance, good or deposit of money present or promised for selecting or purchasing specific course materials received for coursework or instruction, except that the faculty member or employee may receive:
- 1) Free review copies, complimentary teacher editions or instructional material that are not intended to be sold by any faculty, staff or bookstore.
 - 2) Royalties or other compensation from the sale of course materials that include the faculty members own writing or work.
 - 3) Honoraria for academic peer review of course materials.
 - 4) Training in the use of course materials and learning technologies.
- B. An unsolicited or solicited free review copy, sample copy, or complimentary teacher edition of course materials provided by a publisher at no charge and delivered to the attention of an employee at a college location is presumed to be the property of the Metropolitan Community College. However, such employee may nevertheless assume ownership of such materials if the materials are, in the judgment of the employee, pertinent to the employee's academic discipline or professional responsibilities. As these materials are provided for professional academic use and are not intended by the publisher for sale, an employee should at no time sell or trade them to any person or other entity for personal profit. Appropriate disposition of the materials includes donation to a student or library or charitable organization, or returning the book to the publisher.

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