

ANNUAL REPORT

University Standing Committee	Bookstores
Academic Year Covered by Report	2015-2016
Date Report Submitted	July 1, 2016
Report Submitted by	Anthony Sanders Interim Director Bookstores
Number of times committee met	One

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made one recommendation to set up meetings between Bookstore merchandise buyers and staff in the Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity on an annual basis to discuss clothing designs and the messages that certain products may convey to populations in the University community. Discussions will focus on creating and maintaining an atmosphere of inclusiveness for all of the University community.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE

The Committee spent the first half hour of the fall meeting introducing new members and educating those members on the mission of the Bookstore and various programs that support the University. Committee members also discussed the previous year's recommendation to Dr. Arden that store management staff be allowed to present at new faculty orientation. I was able to present to new faculty after the orientation session concluded at a reception hosted by the store in Talley Student Union in August 2015 which was successful and will continue this year.

The Committee proceeded to discuss new business regarding two main topics. First, the Committee discussed the continuing changes in course materials as the shift from traditional print textbooks to rental books, digital course materials, and open source materials become more prevalent on campus.

The second topic discussed involved examples of garments that had been pulled from our sales floor due to complaints that the message conveyed on these shirts was offensive in some manner. In one case, a shirt design included the words "Southern" and Tradition". In the other example, the shirt included the word "Enginerd." The diverse population of the committee, discussed both examples, and concluded that neither design crossed the boundaries of poor taste nor they should be removed from the sales floor. However, in order to create an environment of inclusion, Bookstore staff did remove these items to our stock room, and the remaining inventory was marked down as a loss.

The meeting concluded after some final announcements and a tour of the new store location in Talley Student Union.

The Committee did not meet during the spring semester due to very limited available times to meet and ongoing projects in the store location in Talley.