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the Seahawk



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Serving UNC Wilmington

Faculty Senate rallies against new bookstore management



Andy Bader/the Seahawk

This semester, the wrong edition of several textbooks were ordered by the campus bookstore.

SARAH BRODERS
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STAFF WRITERS

This year the students aren't the only ones upset about the bookstore.

The campus bookstore has always been an unfortunate reality for broke college students. This year to cap it off, we've seen elevated prices, a lack of sufficient books available and even the wrong books placed on the shelves for ever-challenging classes.

This has not only upset the students, it has upset faculty as well.

The campus bookstore was privatized for the Fall 2002 semester and is now owned and

operated by Barnes and Noble. An approximate 35 percent mark-up is placed on books in between the arrival of a book to the store and the sale of the book to the student. This is how the bookstore is able to maintain a profit and remain in operation, said bookstore employees.

The SGA saw potential problems back in November 2001 with the privatization of the bookstore and passed a resolution 17-7 against privatizing the bookstore. The two problems they thought it would cause were whether or not the bookstore would give scholarships like the old bookstore did, and the fate of the current employees.

One former bookstore employ-

ee, now working at Seahawk Book & Supply, said that he lost his retirement because of the transformation.

Former bookstore employee Mike Conley doesn't like the corporate feeling at the Barnes and Noble campus store.

"They're so concerned with profits; they're really in a tough position to make money," said Conley, who is also the vice president of Student Organizations.

Conley worked in textbooks for a year. He stocked shelves and helped students find their books. "Everyone complains about prices," he said when asked about the most common complaint. Interestingly, Conley found that the campus store management "does go really out of the way for the faculty and professors."

This semester many members of the faculty are not feeling the same way.

This year, the wrong editions of several books were ordered by the campus bookstore, and several orders came up short. This is quite an inconvenience not only because it takes the students' time to look for the book, but it also takes time out of class when several students are missing their books.

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Page Gambill/the Seahawk

The University is working to make a new laptop requirement a reality within the next couple years. Students, parents and faculty share mixed reactions on the matter.

UNCW might require laptops for freshmen

KATIE TRAPP

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

UNCW freshmen may be required to purchase laptops next year. The university is working hard to put this into effect.

According to Vice Chancellor and Associate Provost Robert Tyndall of the Internet Technology Systems Division at UNCW, there are three options for the university to consider.

The university can require incoming freshmen to purchase laptops, they can give authorization to certain departments such as computer science to require laptops, or they can require the entire student body to buy laptops.

Most likely, the university will go with the first option.

Once the decision is made to require laptops, the next issue is what brand and who is going to cover the cost.

"A university-wide committee is going to look and see which is

most logical," Tyndall said.

Tyndall, Bobby Miller, Beverly Vagnerini and Scott Cowdrey, all of ITSD, presented information to the committee at a meeting Sept. 8.

"If they make a decision in the spring, we're probably looking one and a half to two years out before it becomes a reality," Tyndall said.

The university has received mixed feedback regarding mandatory laptops. A survey will be sent to parents, probably of freshmen, to learn how many have laptops or desktops, and the brand and price they chose.

"Parents are glad that students are learning [computer] skills and better prepared after leaving college," Tyndall said. "Students have an advantage living in that [technical] world for four years."

The only negative feedback has

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