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Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

Cyndi Shropshire, textbook assistant at the VandalStore, works on reselling unsold textbook inventory online Monday. The VandalStore is implementing changes aimed at lowering textbook costs for University of Idaho students.

Bookstore bargaining

VandalStore undergoes changes to streamline textbook buying options, information

Britt Kiser
Argonaut

Every semester, University of Idaho faculty and staff have to decide which textbooks will help their students be successful and the VandalStore staff is there to help, Bookstore Director John Bales said.

In an effort to streamline the process and bring value to students, Bales said the VandalStore is undergoing changes to encourage a timely flow of information.

Bales said there are three value-oriented textbook options for students — digital, used rental and purchased rental books — in

no specific order. He said the No. 1 student choice is the used textbook, whether it's rented or purchased.

Bales said the sooner VandalStore staff receives textbook information from instructors, the better.

"It's all about product selection," he said. "The faster we have information, the faster we can get out in front of other schools to provide our students with options they prefer."

In a Feb. 12 UI Faculty Senate presentation, Bales used the example of a 100-student class and a textbook title with new and used availability — used retail price is

\$50, while new retail price is \$100. If the VandalStore ordered 100 books six weeks prior to the start of classes, they would receive 60 used and 40 new and the average cost of a book would be \$70. However, if the VandalStore ordered 100 books two weeks before classes, they would receive 20 used copies and 80 new, and the average cost of a book per student would be \$90. If an order is put in later, the average cost of a textbook can be nearly 30 percent more per student.

Bales said one major change is the

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In brief

Sustainability Center hosts 'Green Lunches'

The University of Idaho Sustainability Center will sponsor several "Green Lunches" through the rest of the semester in an effort to raise awareness about what sustainable food means from different perspectives.

Tessa Jilot, recycling coordinator at the Office of Community Partnerships, said the Green Lunches provide an excellent opportunity for students to discuss different sustainability issues on campus and in the Moscow community.

The first Green Lunch is from 12:30-1:30 p.m. March 6 in the Crest Room in the Idaho Commons. ASUI and the Sustainability Center partnered to invite a guest speaker, Josiah Pinkham, from the Nez Perce tribe. Pinkham will give his perspective on sustainable food, Jilot said.

The second Green Lunch is April 3 and will feature Donna Mills from the Soil Stewards Organic Farm Club on campus. Mills will speak about sustainable agriculture at UI in the Well-spring Room in the Idaho Commons.

The third and final Green Lunch will host a sustainable economics panel, moderated by Mayor Nancy Chaney. Professors and students alike will discuss the role of short-term decision making on long-term sustainability. The present professors will specialize in psychology, economics and ecosystem functions, offering diverse perspectives on suitability issues. Students are encouraged to come with questions, Jilot said. This lunch will take place on from 12-2 p.m. April 24 in the Idaho Commons Clearwater Room.

Senate postpones action on S13-02 until next meeting

After voting to send a resolution concerning the Idaho Human Rights Act to the state legislature, the ASUI Senate decided to postpone action pending further amendments after their Feb. 20 meeting.

The resolution, S13-02, calls for an amendment to the Idaho Human Rights Act to include the terms "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" in order to prevent discrimination against LGBTQ individuals in the state of Idaho.

The discussion on the resolution was divided. Sen. Bruno Arama spoke against the resolution because he considered it dead on arrival in the Idaho legislature, and he was worried lawmakers might look down on future ASUI resolutions. He also said students at the University of Idaho are already protected from discrimination.

Senate Pro Tempore Allison Fuller said while students on campus are protected, those who live off campus are not. She also said alumni who live in Idaho are not protected.

"While it may not pass the legislature for some time, we need to take a stand to start protecting our fellow Vandals starting now," Fuller said.

During the discussion, several senators voiced concern about the tone of the resolution being construed as condescending to the legislature. These concerns prompted the senate to postpone action until the resolution can be amended at Wednesday's meeting.

Real Life on the Palouse looks to buy Eastside Marketplace

The Eastside Marketplace is under contract to sell to Real Life on the Palouse, a non-denominational church. The marketplace includes the 15-acre facility and the 150,000 square-foot shopping center.

The church intends to create an LLC to own the marketplace and plans to honor all current tenant leases.

Real Life on the Palouse will renovate the 20,000 square-foot event space in the shopping center to serve as their Moscow campus. An official

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Emily Johnson | Argonaut

Idaho legislators on the Joint Education Committee listen to school administrators, staff and parents about education issues in accordance with the previously rejected "Luna Laws," which may appear back on ballots.

'Luna Laws' back in legislature

Emily Johnson
Argonaut
Statehouse Bureau

It is no secret that Propositions 1, 2 and 3, commonly known as "Luna Laws," were killed with a majority vote in the November elections, but now Republican lawmakers are hoping to bring parts of the "Luna Laws" back to the ballots.

"Idahoans do not believe their children get a world-class education when teachers are silenced and bullied," Sen. Michelle Stennett said.

Stennett said while the Idaho Democrats listened to voters, they are also supporting Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's decision to create an education task-force to reevaluate the laws. This task-force will give concerned Idahoans a voice in what the new bills contain.

Earlier in January, Otter announced Propositions 1, 2, and 3 would not be revisited in the 2013 legislature, but rather improved.

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Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity joins Greek community

Michelle Gregg
Argonaut

The University of Idaho Greek community's newest addition, Pi Kappa Phi, is actively recruiting members as it prepares to join campus in the fall.

"We're excited to work with the two consultants and help bring in the new group that is expanding our fraternity and sorority community," UI Greek Adviser Matthew Kurz said. "When choosing an organization to come to UI, it comes down to being a good fit, both in policy and national practice — Pi Kap had both of those aspects."

The two leadership consultants, Vince Velasquez and Patrick Smith, travel to different universities for a minimum of five to six weeks to recruit and guide the new members, who are called "founding fathers," until an official charter is established. From there, any student who joins Pi Kappa Phi during the 12 to 13 month chartering process — which constructs the basic elements of the fraternity — is considered one of the founding fathers.

Smith said the hardest part is the beginning — reaching people and getting them interested enough to learn about Pi Kappa Phi. "Right now, we're recruiting from the

national level, and to help guide those who will be the chapter's founding fathers at UI," Velasquez said. "We're here to set-up the first people we recruit, with everything they need to know to be successful in gaining members, starting the chapter and be ready for fall recruitment."

To get the word out and make their presence known on campus, Velasquez said they will organize weekly informational presentations at 7 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in the Teaching and Learning Center, Room 146.

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There are no tent cities, but poverty is still an issue in Moscow — read Our View.

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