Campus Support Services



Dear GW Faculty Member:

With the continued growth of digital technology use in the classroom, including digital textbooks and other resources, we want to remind you of the university's contractual obligation with the operator of the GW Campus Store, Follett Higher Education Group, regarding its role in meeting student needs for course materials.

As you may know, the Federal Higher Education Opportunity Act requires institutions, among other things, to provide students information for each course, including all required and recommended course materials, such as paper and digital text books and related digital content. GW meets this requirement by posting that information with the GW Campus Store and in turn, Follett commits to carry these materials. That is one reason why GW's contract with Follett provides Follett with the exclusive right to sell, rent, and distribute course materials for all courses (including online courses) offered by GW. Another reason is that students who are on scholarship or financial aid receive, as a convenience in advance of the distribution of their funding, financial aid vouchers for course materials that are only accepted by the Campus Store. Often financial aid does not arrive from lending sources until mid-September or later, so unless the student has another source of funding, the student may only be able to obtain their course materials at the start of a semester from the Campus Store.

What does this mean for you as a faculty member? While students may ultimately elect to purchase textbooks and digital content directly from publishers or other vendors, under the university's agreement with Follett, alternative vendors may not be endorsed, licensed, or otherwise approved or supported by the university or its faculty; this includes providing information to students to buy directly from publishers or other vendors. Therefore, we request that you refer students only to the GW Campus Store or eFollett.com whenever you include publisher, or other online bookseller contact information or links in course syllabi or general course information posted on the university's Blackboard learning management system.

Follett and the GW Campus Store are prepared and fully capable of supporting the textbook and digital learning technology needs for your courses. In fact, Follett is the market leader in providing solutions that enhance and streamline the course materials adoption process for faculty and ensure easy, convenient, reliable access to course materials for students. In addition, the GW Campus Store offers the widest available assortment of course materials options, and is well equipped to advise you on the differences among products.

If you have questions or concerns regarding any of the information in this letter, please feel free to contact me or the GW Campus Bookstore Director, Bob Blake. Our contact information can be found below.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our GW Campus Store. The partnership between GW, its faculty and Follett helps ensure our students have access to the most comprehensive and affordable assortment of course materials and services available in the college marketplace.

Sincerely.

Nanaging Director, Campus Support Services

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