

Draft Resolution 1.12

Subject: Textbook Selection and Academic Freedom

Date: October 11, 2011

Mover:

Division/Department:

Seconded:

Division/Department:

Passed:

Whereas, the Hartnell Mathematics Department has, from 1988 to the present, approved Ken Rand's textbook (*Beginning Algebra: Solving The Mystery*) as pedagogically sound and professional without reservation;

Whereas, using his textbook over the last 23 years, Ken Rand has been an outstandingly effective teacher according to every measure: Peer Evaluations, Student Evaluations, and retention rates;

Whereas, it is the recommendation of the ASCCC, with which the Hartnell College Academic Senate emphatically agrees, that "Academic freedom should not be compromised in the choice of textbooks and other course materials unless there is *overwhelming evidence* that the exercise of academic freedom would clearly interfere with student access and/or student success." (emphasis added)

[<http://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/TextbookBookIssues2005.pdf>, p. 17];

Whereas, Dr. Helm and Dr. Flannigan have presented *no* evidence that the use of Ken Rand's book interferes with student access and/or student success, while there is, in fact, overwhelming evidence that the use of Rand's book *enhances* student access and success;

Whereas, it is the newly revised and approved Hartnell College Board Policy (4030) that Academic freedom allows academic employees to seek and present the truth as they know it on problems and issues, subject to the accepted standards of professional responsibility, without fear of interference from administrators, the District Board of Trustees, governmental authorities, or pressure groups. (emphasis added)

Although academic employees have the obligation to ensure that their classroom material

meets the valid educational objectives of the course as stated in the approved Course Outline of Record, they are entitled to freedom in the classroom in presenting the subjects they teach and shall be free to select and use textbooks and materials that they deem appropriate to meet the stated learning outcomes for the course. (emphasis added)

Academic employees are entitled to full freedom in their use of books, online sources, and

internet sites and in the publication of the results of any research that may result from the use of these resources. (emphasis added)

[http://www.hartnell.edu/board/packets/October_4_2011.pdf];

Whereas, it is the recommendation of the ASCCC that “Faculty should consider and encourage all means to control (reduce) the cost of textbooks and materials that do not compromise academic freedom or educational quality”
[<http://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/TextbookBookIssues2005.pdf>];

Whereas, it is Hartnell College Board Policy (4200) that “The Office of the Vice President for Instruction shall seek to avoid or eliminate any course requirement calling for a prohibitively expensive or unnecessary book.”;

Whereas, Ken Rand’s book only costs students a maximum of \$94.50 (for both volumes and the workbook) while the textbook the administration ordered him to use in its place costs \$177 new and \$133 used;

Whereas, the judgment of the President’s or Vice-President’s Office as to the aesthetic quality of the graphics or print in a textbook is not a valid or appropriate standard by which to measure or determine its “professionalism”;

Resolved. The Hartnell Administration’s decision to remove Ken Rand’s textbook from the Hartnell College Bookstore, along with its prohibition against his arrangement with any outside vendor to sell his book to his students, constitutes a clear, direct, and capricious violation of his academic freedom, as well as a clear, direct, and capricious usurpation of the prerogatives and responsibilities of the Mathematics Department and the Academic Senate to decide academic and professional matters.

Resolved. The Academic Senate urges the Hartnell Administration to expedite the return of Ken Rand’s textbook to the Hartnell College Bookstore forthwith, and to refrain in the future from deciding issues of textbook “professionalism” by administrative fiat without consulting either the department concerned or the Academic Senate.