



Tuesday, May 15, 2001

OU Bookstore changes service providers

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

Oakland University has contracted with Barnes & Noble to provide services at the OU Bookstore effective May 1.

Wallace's Bookstores, the previous vendor, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on February 28. Wallace's is the third-largest operator of college bookstores, operating 92 stores on 74 college campuses nationwide. Wallace's replaced Barnes & Noble as OU's bookstore service provider in June 1999.

Peggy Cooke, OU's director of auxiliary services, said that after concluding negotiations with several possible vendors, the transition back to Barnes & Noble was a smooth one, with no problems for faculty or students in obtaining textbooks.

"Barnes & Noble was very responsive in coming back to OU," Cooke said. "They honored all of Wallace's commitments, including the guaranteed buy back and acquiring text books for the spring semester. They're working now on getting all the summer and fall orders in."

Barnes & Noble purchased all existing bookstore inventory and will continue to carry supplies, convenience items and OU merchandise. Cooke said faculty should order their textbooks for summer and fall semesters as soon as possible.

"Faculty should use the same process as always to order their textbooks – in person, or by phone, fax or e-mail," she said. "With Barnes & Noble's size and bookstore experience, as long as faculty get their orders in, the books will be there."

Barnes & Noble is exploring the possibility of providing online purchases of textbooks and other merchandise, said Cooke. No renovation or expansion of the existing bookstore space is expected.

SUMMARY

Oakland University has contracted with Barnes & Noble to provide services at the OU Bookstore effective May 1.

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