Barnes and Noble affiliate to manage Cabrillo bookstore

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APTOS — Starting in the fall semester, the Cabrillo College Bookstore will be managed by B&N College, an affiliate of Barnes and Noble, giving some stability to the bookstore after the past two years saw three different interim managers.

Approved by the Cabrillo College Governing Board in late December, B&N College will manage the bookstore for five years, with an option to renew for another five years, according to a report given to the board.

The agreement is expected to generate $300,000 a year for the college, plus commission, which would be an improvement for the college on a financial standpoint, according to Kristin Fabos, spokesperson for Cabrillo.

Students will have more purchasing options available for them, due to Barnes and Noble’s large inventory, Fabos said. They will also have the option to rent a digital textbook, which will be new for the college.

“All of those options combined will ultimately lower prices for students,” Fabos said.

The bookstore will continue to be called the Cabrillo College Bookstore.

After former manager Robin Ellis resigned in 2011, the bookstore went through a period of three interim managers, including a three-month stint with Casey Coonerty Protti of Bookshop Santa Cruz.

Soon after Ellis’ resignation, a bookstore subcommittee was formed to select a vendor to manage the store.

In November, two companies, Barnes and Noble and Follett Higher Education Group, expressed interest in managing the bookstore.

The subcommittee unanimously recommended Barnes and Noble based on a number of factors, including financial terms and textbook pricing, according to the report.