

## **Faculty Senate Committee Report**

Committee:	Resources and Environment
Date and Time:	Tuesday, September 17, 2013, 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Location:	Accounting Dept. Conference Room (3135), Nelson Hall
Issue:	Passes Out at NC State Football Games
Those Present:	Committee Members: Paul Williams, Ed Funkhouser (Co-Chairs), and John Heitmann.  Guests: Ron Campbell, Lecturer, Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics, and Christopher Austin, Assistant Director of Health Promotion, Substance Abuse Prevention, NCSU Student Health Services.

Campbell and Austin call for an end to the policy of allowing spectators at NCSU football games to leave the stadium and later re-enter, a policy known as the “pass out” policy. They propose that once a ticket holder enters the stadium, he or she may not leave and re-enter for the duration of the game. NC State University is one of five schools in the ACC with such a policy (Clemson, Duke, Syracuse, and Wake Forest are the other four) according to Campbell and Austin.

Campbell and Austin say it is evident that many fans leave the stadium at halftime at a NC State football game, return to their vehicles in nearby parking lots, and then later return to their seats at the beginning of the second half. Campbell and Austin claim that many fans go to their vehicles at halftime to consume alcoholic beverages and they argue that NC State’s permitting this to happen may lead to negative consequences for individuals and for the university, including the following:

- Drinking alcoholic beverages at halftime can lead to more incidents of people driving while intoxicated (DWI). The effects of alcohol may not significantly abate during the time it takes to play the second half for those who increased their alcohol level during halftime. In effect, this is a life safety issue for all who may encounter these folks on the highway.

- Allowing people to enter and leave the stadium as they wish weakens stadium security and adds to the enforcement burden on police. The ability to enter and leave and re-enter as one wishes creates opportunities for negative occurrences ranging from mischief to more serious and harmful incidents. The current policy causes the police to spread their resources across two venues, the stadium and the parking areas, instead of concentrating on the stadium only.

- The DWI and security concerns mentioned above increase risk and liability issues for our university. These risks include incidents which bring negative publicity to the university, the opportunity for injured parties to sue the university, and, most important, risks to the health and safety of all those in attendance.

Additional information:

Campbell and Austin say neither the Southeastern Conference nor any school in the Florida higher education system permits passes out. East Carolina University (ECU) also does not permit leaving and then returning to the stadium. Campbell and Austin point out that serious alcohol related incidents at NC State football games have already occurred, including murder.

A related issue: ECU does not permit individuals to remain in the parking lots after the end of the first quarter according to Campbell and Austin. ECU police officers make those folks leave; if they aren't going to the game, they can't stay in the parking areas. At NC State, fans may remain in parking areas throughout the game.

Committee member John Heitmann pointed out that many NCSU campus organizations and alumni groups have tailgate activities that may be open during at least part of the game. He said there would be social losses for the university if those functions were curtailed or eliminated. Heitmann asked if either Campbell or Austin had any research data to support their claim that eliminating passes out would increase safety. They did not.

