

Faculty Senate Resources and Environment Committee
Report of Activities for the 2014 – 2015 Academic Year

Pending issues at the beginning of the year:

- Centennial Parkway Crosswalks – not properly marked or lighted creating hazard for students crossing. Resolution: crosswalks in heavy student traffic areas are now fitted with signs informing drivers to stop for pedestrians. Transportation continues to work on risks to pedestrian traffic making its way to shopping center.
- University Research Foundation – feasibility of NC State having a University Research Foundation similar to that at other universities. Resolution: not feasible here, but a task force needs to be appointed to develop a plan as to how the benefits of such a center can be provided within the current structure at NC State; a task for Teri Lomax successor.
- Dress code on Poole golf course – denim not allowed. Resolution: issue was brought to the attention of policy committee for the course which was non-responsive.
- First Act and NSF funding for social sciences – draft legislation in Congress advocating NSF funding for social science research be curtailed. Resolution: legislation never made it out of committee, but must monitor since such legislation could re-surface with new Congress.
- Facilities charges – rental charges for lab space in buildings on Centennial excessive. Resolution: Committee met with Mike Harwood who provided information on how the rental fees are determined. Fees are based on cost of space, which includes debt service on the facility. Rents are facility by facility since averaging over all facilities is not feasible. What any particular scientist pays depends on the facility and how his or her particular college subsidizes the fee. Fees are based on cost and are not set to “launder” money from restricted to unrestricted status.
- Journal cuts at the library – funding for collections is unreliable from year –to-year and steadier source of funding needs to be identified. Resolution: R&E Committee has drafted two resolutions that are currently before the Senate to request the University administration seeks ways to provide for collections funding and funding to keep the libraries open for more hours during the week.

Issues arising during the year:

- Research administration – administration of research grants is not done in a sufficiently timely way, e.g., approval of sub-contractors can take as long as the term of the grant to be finalized. We find, as in the lab rental fee, there is a college effect as well. The R&E Committee is planning to work with the University Research Committee to develop a survey of faculty to ascertain the extent of the problem and where the problem is the most acute. Our committee has as yet not enough information to recommend what should be done about what is clearly a genuine issue of concern.
- Crime warnings – the wording of crime warnings implied that the victim was responsible because the warning was followed by a lengthy list of advice about how to prevent being a victim, implying fault on the part of the actual victim. With no action by the committee subsequent warnings have been reworded such that the person who raised the issue is satisfied that the current wording of warnings no longer tends to stigmatize the victim.
- Research journal publication fees – many journals offer authors the opportunity to have their articles available in open access for a fee (that can be quite substantial, e.g., \$5,000).

A suggestion was made that perhaps the University/Colleges could provide a faculty member with funds to pay such a fee for selected papers. Resolution: the R&E committee did a calculation of what paying a publication fee would cost per year making assumption about how many faculty would publish and what an average fee would be. With conservative assumptions it amounts to between one and two million dollars per year. Since the library provides archiving services to faculty that provide open access to their work that isn't the final version of the published paper, the R&E Committee suggests that the publication fee not be provided and that we engage in an information campaign to inform faculty about the services the library already provides for providing open access to faculty work.

Submitted by:

Resources and Environment Committee – Bryan Laffitte, Chris Gunter, John Heitman, Marie Davidian, Michael Devetsikiotis, Mike Levy, Dick Bernhard, Wendy Krause (co-chair), Paul Williams (co-chair).