

Faculty Senate Environment and Resources Committee
March 29, 2016
4:00-5:00PM, Faculty Senate Chambers, D.H. Hill Library

Present: Richard “Dick” Bernhard, Chris Gunter, Bryan Lafitte, Marguerite Moore, Harry Perros, Phillip Sannes

Guests: Provost Warwick Arden, Walter Wessels, Chair, University Standing Committee on Libraries

Dick provided the committee information on how the issue was brought to the attention of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The issue was forwarded to the Senate by the members of the University Library Committee who are concerned that an impending DASA move will encroach on DH Hill.

Provost Arden

The Provost joined our meeting to give us the long-term background on the issue. He clarified at the outset that neither a decision nor a firm plan to locate DASA in DH Hill has been finalized. Just under a year ago (approximately nine months past) Provost Arden asked Vice Provost Susan Nutter and Vice Chancellor Mike Mullen to collaborate on creating a Student Success Center (SSC)*, to be potentially located in DH Hill. The purpose of the SSC is to provide integrated student focused services in a central location that is accessible to the undergraduate student population (e.g., tutoring and advising). The impetus behind instituting the SSC is a part of the NC State Strategic Plan to promote student success, and to provide students’ with experiences that are comparable to our peer institutions who have successfully incorporated similar structures. This center represents one of two centers envisioned to focus on students. The other center focuses on Financial and Registration services and is underway.

The architects identified DH Hill as underutilized space on central campus. Due to the removal of a million and a-half volumes to Hunt the stacks are not fully utilized. Therefore, the Provost suggested that the Vice Provost and Vice Chancellor work together to come up with a plan for how this space could work. His three major reasons for identifying DH Hill for the SSC include: the centrality of the location, the underutilized space and Vice Provost Nutter’s specific expertise at creating this type of interactive environment.

*Also refers to the SSC as “Student Engagement Space”

Walter Wessels, Chair, University Standing Committee on Libraries

Dr. Wessels joined the meeting at 4:30PM to give us background on the issue from the perspective of the University Standing Committee on Libraries. He reported that the committee is currently considering architectural plans for the proposed space in DH Hill. The committee is concerned about the potential costs of the student collaboration space to the function of D.H. Hill. Dr Wessels suggests we should consider all potential costs and benefits of locating the SSC at D.H. Hill. He further suggests considering all campus space before deciding upon DH Hill.

Additional Discussion

Provost Arden emphasizes that the project is in a planning stage only, and that both the Libraries and DASA were informed of the plan and invited to contribute to the vision from the beginning. Members of our committee suggest a conversation about the pros and cons for locating the Student Engagement Center at DH Hill between the relevant parties.

NOTE: Provost Arden's original idea was to locate a center of this kind in the new Harrelson space. However, the timeframe for this project is long term and the needs for a centralized SSC are immediate.