

NCSU Faculty Senate Resources and Environment Committee

Report for 2022-2023

Committee Members: Tania Allen, David Auerbach, Richard Bernhard, Keith Edmisten, Mathew Gerard, Helmut Hergeth, Roger Narayan, Eileen Taylor (co-chair), Steven Vincent (co-chair)

The Committee met six times:

9/13/2022

9/27/2022

10/11/2022

10/25/2022

2/14/2023

3/28/2023

The committee received six Issues of Concern (IOC) whose disposition follows:

IOC 1:

I was recently listening to faculty members talk about the difficulties inherent in traveling for research presentations having to pay thousands of dollars upfront and await reimbursement. This is likely a challenge for some, but particularly for assistant professors or those not tenured or on the tenure track. Do you know if this has come up before? The process used by the university is prohibitive to the professional advancement of junior faculty. We also should not assume tenured faculty have the financial ability to front the money for these work-related expenses. Perhaps administrators have P-cards and do not have to concern themselves with these challenges and thus may be unaware of the struggles it presents for faculty.

I feel fortunate that I am able to temporarily absorb the cost but can recall when that was not the case. We should have processes in place that benefit those that cannot afford it rather than privileging those that can. What would be the process to visit this issue?

Response:

The committee discussed this IOC and the members researched how paying for travel in advance is handled in their respective departments. We found that this issue is handled differently in various departments. In some departments it is common for faculty to have their own P-cards and we found no similar problem in those departments. Faculty do not have their own P-cards in other departments, but in each of these cases the department had a P-card available for such use. We suspect that in this case the new faculty member was not aware of this option.

We suspect that this is a rare problem that could be avoided by clear communication from departments and faculty mentors to new faculty members. Our research determined that it is not university policy for faculty to pay expenses upfront from personal accounts, but is an option if one does not want to use the P-card system

IOC 2:

I am sharing this IOC with the co-chairs of the Resources and Environment Committee, as I expect it will come to them.

I returned from break to discover that some of the tents erected during the pandemic were taken down - specifically those in the Governors Scott Courtyard and on the Jordan Hall patio.

While I understand that, at least in the case of the Jordan Hall patio, there are plans to put up a more permanent covering, there is no known timeline for this project. In the meantime, much used amenities have been removed. Campus leadership is rarely out and about on campus, so they may be unaware that these tents have been in nearly constant use, for studying, group meetings, and social gatherings on all but the coldest days.

Tents provide healthy (in terms of Covid) gathering and work spaces and allow the Wolfpack to make greater use of our lovely campus landscape. Without coverings, outside meetings and work become impossible when it is hot and sunny, when it is raining, or anytime - essentially always - that one needs to be using devices with screens (which are very hard to see in direct daylight).. Also time out-of-doors has well established mental-health benefits.

Specific questions relating to this IOC are:

Why were the tents removed? Who in the Wolfpack community was consulted before this was done? Are there plans to replace the tents, and, if so, on what timeline?

Response:

We contacted Doug Morton and received the following information.

The outdoor spaces, both covered and uncovered, were a result of the university developing ways to provide welcoming outdoor space for the university community during the pandemic. It worked. Students, faculty and staff used the new furniture and tent areas as we had hoped. These efforts were planned, coordinated and implemented by my staff in the Facilities Division with generous support from the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration. We have managed all facets of these outdoor spaces since the pandemic began.

As the pandemic abated - and special funding also stopped flowing - the Facilities Division evaluated the effective use of each covered space v. the cost to continue renting the tents and determined which tents to keep in place and which to discontinue.

The tent on the Oval has been the most popular covered site. Our plan is to shift this space to the area in front of the Wolfpack Outfitters in Wolf Ridge. We will place the same brick pavers as a "patio" and then erect a new tent cover on the new site. We are clearing the Oval of obstructions in preparation for the installation of our new public art "Reds and Whites," which will be placed in the Oval closer to Hunt Library.

I am eager to hear from the Senate regarding the use of outdoor spaces. Are there particular areas where covered space is most requested? Recently, "The Corner" has been developed by University Real Estate and Development at Main Campus Drive and Research Drive. It is a colorful collection of transformed shipping containers and has lighting, electrical outlets and wi-fi.

I'd be happy to visit with the Senate to answer any questions regarding outdoor space.

Since the primary beneficiaries of these outdoor spaces are students, we also contacted the student body president, McKenzy Heavlin and put him and Doug Morton in touch with each other. Based on the

following additional communication from Doug, the issue is resolved for now – Walt Robinson agrees. My team consulted with the student government routinely during the pandemic regarding these spaces. We will reach out to McKenzie on our plan for the Oval. He is a member of the Buildings and Property Committee of the Board of Trustees of which I am secretary.

We also present these ideas to the Campus Design Review Panel (CDRP). Several faculty members are on the panel and they provide helpful input as we consider work that affects our campus appearance and outdoor space usage.

and finally

I'll ask my folks to take a closer look and then propose to my boss and the provost some short and long term solutions for covered outdoor space. We will try to move away from tents to a more durable and sustainable solution.

IOC 3:

Many classrooms are impossible to lock from the inside, making it difficult to bar entry in an active shooter situation. Currently, installing such locks is the responsibility of the building supervisor for each individual building, who is typically employed by a department. Many of us teach in buildings not under the control of our department. So a campus-wide solution should be considered.

Response.

(from David Rainer, Associate Vice Chancellor, Environmental Health and Public Safety)

I will pull out some info we provided to the system office several years ago on classroom door locks because you can't just change out locks but need to address door windows, [door] jambs and the door itself. In the early 90's classroom doors were retrofitted with windows because of a sexual assault in a classroom.

Solution under investigation. Continue for coming year.

IOC 4:

When evacuation of a building is necessary because of fire or other emergency, a wheelchair bound person on an upper floor has no option other than to take the elevator and hope for the best.

Response:

Pieter Verhallen, a member of our subcommittee, pointed out the evacuation chair used at one of his previous institutions, advertised at the following link.

<https://www.grainger.com/product/4WLZ7?gucid=N:N:PS:Paid:GGL:CSM-2295:4P7A1P:20501231&gclsrc=aw.ds>

We passed this information along to Doug Morton, who, in turn contacted David Rainer, Associate Vice Chancellor, Environmental Health and Public Safety. David is waiting to hear back from Amy Orders, Director, Emergency Management and Mission Continuity, who handles fire protection assistance and training for wheelchair evacuation.

Status. In progress. Continue for coming year.

IOC 5:

Does the University have enough EV charging stations? In addition, does the University have plans to deal with the apparent increase in interest in EV vehicles.

Question 1: An issue was brought up to the faculty senate about the number of EV charging stations we have. Could you give more details about the issue raised?

Andrea Neri: We currently have 8 charging stations for a total of 16 ports. We have noticed that EVs are becoming more popular and realize that demand is starting to outgrow our current inventory. We recently received a grant to purchase 10 additional charging stations, which will bring the total number of available ports to 36, and are working to have them installed within the next six months. We will be installing four at the Coliseum Deck, four at the Oval West Deck and two at the Dan Allen Deck. There is a four-hour, active charging limit before a citation is issued (in the Fall a sharp increase in the hourly rate - applied to all users - will start after four hours of connected time). This is to prevent one person from monopolizing a charger all day preventing others from using it.

Question 2: Do you have any stats about how much they are used, what percent of the time they are occupied?

Andrea Neri: Yes, we do. In the past 30 days, on average 11 were heavily used (>6 hours per day) and five had moderate usage (3-6 hours per day).

Response:

Based on the data provided it appears that EV stations are adequate at this time and will be increased to accommodate any perceived increase in usage.

IOC 6:

With Narcan soon to be available over the counter, would it make sense to provide it at strategic locations throughout the campus (and perhaps at various off-campus housing sites).

Response:

Jenn Wilder, Interim Director, Campus Health, was contacted about this concern. She has forwarded the concern to the Interim Medical Director, Dr. Courtney Hinton. We hope to hear back soon from Dr. Hinton.

Dr. Hinton responded: "You are correct that Narcan was recently approved for OTC dispensing (on 3/28/23). Typically, it takes a few weeks/months before it's actually available from manufacturers to order it. As of now, we have not attained it for our pharmacy here on campus.

As far as wide distribution on campus, we have discussed having conversations with other campus partners regarding what the campus availability for Narcan should look like moving forward. We are only able to purchase and stock it for purchase in our pharmacy at this time though."