

The Resources & Environment Committee met on September 12 to consider the recommendations listed below: The Associate Vice Chancellors (AVC) for Facilities and for Environmental Health and Public Safety met with the committee to discuss these recommendations. We found that most of these recommendations have been considered, that some already exist on campus and that there are some practical reasons why some of these recommendations have not been adopted. The degree of considerations and safeguards that have already been done was surprising to the committee. We feel like the entire faculty senate would benefit from hearing directly from these AVCs.

Below is a summary of the recommendations discussed by the committee with some notes on the initial responses provided by the AVCs. They will be available at the October 3, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting to elaborate and answer questions.

REPORT

The recent shooting at UNC Chapel Hill raises important questions and concerns about preparedness at NC State for an active shooter situation. At the final Faculty Senate meeting of the 2022-23 academic year, the campus police chief reported their efforts to secure the campus and ensure the safety of faculty, staff, and students. We greatly appreciate campus police and their willingness to confront dangerous situations on behalf of the university community, but we found the chief's responses unsatisfactory. He encouraged a passive response from those under attack and his comments on responsibility for installing locks on the inside of classroom doors failed to confront our concerns about classroom security. Consequently, we strongly encourage the university to consider the following strategies to better secure the NC State campus and reduce the anxieties of anticipating shooting incidents so that we can better concentrate on thinking and doing.

Notes: Many of the newer buildings have glass walls, windows doors and more open arrangements that might not benefit from locks. Bullets can also render a lock ineffective. Classrooms are not under the control of one entity.

There are ways to lock buildings that would allow only faculty, staff and students to enter the building with their card. This would not stop a current NCSU student or employee. Also that a non-NCSU person could tailgate into a building behind others.

The committee did discuss if there is a better way for students to air their grievances. Problems (especially conflict between faculty and students) need to be elevated to BAT instead of in the department.

Recommendation 1: Foremost, we highly appreciate the Chancellor's message of 29 August 2023 in which he emphasized counseling and mental health. We support continued investment in mental health services on campus for faculty, staff, and students. We are disheartened to have heard that none of the students who took their lives in 2022-23 sought out counseling. We recommend that the university adopt and [anonymous tip](#) phone lines and text messaging service

so that individuals exhibiting concerning behavior get the help they need *before* they resort to violence against themselves, others, or both.

Notes: In general, concerns about mental health and suicides would be better addressed by another committee. The [CARES program](#) already allows for anonymous reporting of irregular or threatening behavior. The [BAT \(Behavior Assessment Team\)](#) meets weekly to go over these reports.

Recommendation 2: The university to collaborate with the entire UNC system to acquire the [RAVE Panic Button](#) program, or some comparable emergency system through which faculty, staff, and students can report active shootings. The [State invested in RAVE](#) for all high schools and middle schools. Why not universities? The program not only alerts authorities to an active situation, but immediately identifies the precise location. The [university's emergency website](#) that explains what to do in a situation instructs to call 911, but buries other necessary information. While 911 may be a reasonable emergency number in many situations, the urgency of an active shooter situation may not allow the time to answer the dispatcher's questions about where, when, who, how many, etc. etc. With the push of one button, RAVE not only alerts 911 but also connects to on-site personnel and first responders immediately.

Notes: NCSU has considered using the RAVE system as described above and chose not to. A panic button does not give the details police need to form an effective response. Also the existing systems like panic buttons on campus already stretch resources. NCSU does use some components of the RAVE system.

Recommendation 3: There could be a better first responder system in place with students, faculty, and staff trained on how to properly identify and [respond to active shooters](#) and other campus emergencies, including emergency response procedures, such as building-specific evacuations, and advanced first aid. Having a shift-based system that ensures that two or more trained emergency response faculty, staff, and/or students are present on-site (confirmed by using a pager system and having them pick up their pagers on the on-days) at all times of the day when students are present would ensure the quickest response time to any emergency situations, including active shooters.

Notes: Most of the discussion about this recommendation revolved around how difficult it would be to institute this type of system with faculty, staff and students being in and out of the building during the day.

Recommendation 4: In situations such as that at UNC between a student and faculty, or similar 1-on-1 confrontations, verbal de-escalation training might prove crucial. We recommend the university provide training for faculty, staff, administrators, and public safety officers on [verbal de-escalation techniques](#).

Notes: There is training available, but registration/attendance have been low. Campus intent is to have a regularly scheduled class in REPORTER.