

ANNUAL REPORT

University Standing Committee: Bookstores
Academic Year Covered by Report: 2014-2015
Date Report Submitted: June 1, 2015
Report Submitted by: Karlyn Mitchell, Chair
Number of times committee met: One

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made one recommendation to Provost Warwick A. Arden, Vice Provost Betsy Brown and Dr. Diane Chapman, Director of the Office of Faculty Development, in a memo dated November 12, 2014.

Recommendation: That Bookstores Management make a brief (approximately 15-minute) presentation at the orientations of new faculty that are sponsored by the Office of the Provost, presented by the Office of Faculty Development, and held in mid-August each year. Presentations will focus on the instruction-related services of the Bookstores.

After consulting with Provost Arden and Dr. Chapman, Vice Provost Brown followed up on the memo with Pat Hofmeister, Director of the NC State Bookstores. Dr. Brown proposed an alternative to a presentation: an open house/reception in the main campus Bookstore following one of the afternoon orientation sessions. Dr. Brown and Ms. Hofmeister agreed this alternative could work well, as New Faculty Orientation will be held in the Talley Student Union near the Bookstore's new location.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE

The Committee spent the first half hour of its fall meeting hearing reports about the roll-out of the Bookstores' new faculty textbook adoption site, the relocation of WolfXpress and the main campus Bookstore, and the Bookstore Ambassador program. The Committee spent the next half hour finalizing a memo to Drs. Arden, Brown and Chapman recommending presentations by the Bookstores' management at new faculty orientation. The Committee spent nearly an hour learning about alternatives to traditional textbooks which the Bookstores can now offer and discussing implications. The Committee foresees that the availability of textbook alternatives will produce major changes in Bookstore operations, Faculty / Bookstore relations, and the work of the Bookstores Committee. The meeting concluded after some final announcements.

The Committee did not meet in the spring, as ex officio committee members Pat Hofmeister and Anthony Sanders were occupied with moving the main campus Bookstore to its new location in the Talley Student Union.

NC STATE

From: Betsy Brown
To: Pat Hofmeister
Cc: Karlyn Mitchell,
Warwick Arden
Diane Chapman
Dan Adams
Anthony Sanders

Mon, Nov 24, 2014 at 11:12 AM

Pat,

Thanks for talking with me last week about how to ensure that new faculty have a chance to find out about the services available from the Bookstore. As you know from previous years' discussions, the time we have with the new faculty at Orientation is limited (2 1/2 days, down from 5 several years ago), and we try to use most of that time for panels of faculty who address examples of how NC State faculty achieve excellence in teaching, research, service and engagement.

We have learned in previous years that given their time constraints in the week before classes begin, the new faculty do not value presentations by campus offices, many of which have requested time on the agenda. We encourage those offices to provide materials we can distribute to participating faculty and, as is the case with the Libraries, sponsor an event to welcome as well as inform new faculty.

I think one of the options we discussed might work well: having an open house in the Bookstore after one of the afternoon orientation sessions when faculty might learn more about the Bookstore in action as well as receive coupons or other encouragement to use the Bookstore's services. We are discussing scheduling Orientation in Talley, which would work very well since you will (we hope!) be in your new space. It might be an opportunity for the members of the committee to meet with the new faculty as well, to reinforce the importance of your services.

I have copied Karlyn on this email to let her know that I have discussed the committee's memorandum with Dr. Chapman and the Provost, who was the first to suggest an alternate opportunity for faculty to visit the Bookstore during the week before classes begin. Karlyn, I hope you will share this message with the committee and understand that while the purpose of your request is certainly a valid one, adding a presentation on the Bookstore at Orientation may not be the best use of the limited time we have with the new faculty.

Pat, I look forward to working with you on an allied session with the new faculty at the Bookstore. And we appreciate the support of you and your staff of New Faculty Orientation over the years.

Betsy Brown