

30 April 2009

Update on Use of Campus Space for Educational and Research Purposes
(aka Environmental Education Research Space – EERS or “Outdoor Labs”)

Steering Committee:

Patricia Bricker (Elementary and Middle Grade Education), Dave Butcher (Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences), Beverly Collins (Biology), Wiley Harris (Engineering Supervisor, Facilities Management), Mark Lord (Geology/NRCM), Galen May (Architect, Facilities Management), Seán O’Connell (Biology), and Joe Walker (Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Management)

Progress since 2007-2008:

- Solicited input from faculty about current and desired uses of space on Main and West campuses
- Meetings with the provost (Spring 2008) and provost, Chuck Wooten, and Facilities Management (summer 2008) about use of space issues
- Meeting to determine how best to proceed (April 2009)

Current status:

- The administration and Facilities Management are very receptive to using out-of-doors space on campus
 - No or very low cost associated with use of space
 - Augmentation of existing courses and research projects on campus
 - Helpful in student recruitment (and likely retention)
- What needs to be assessed is the sort of projects that are viable options for our campus
 - Long-term projects: Cherokee Gardens; Groundwater wells; Archaeological sites
 - Medium-range temporary projects: Semester study or one to a few years use of site (e.g., Community garden; Environmental monitoring garden and station; Old field sites for plant and animal observations)
 - Short-term temporary projects: One or more days or weeks involving specialized placement of monitoring objects or equipment or special use of space (e.g., Water sampling pumps; Bird mist nets; Native American athletic trials)
- Potential solution: Use of form (on back) to request space. The form would be reviewed by the steering committee and evaluated for a usable location on campus, if possible.

Ongoing:

- Meetings of the steering committee to determine what spaces on campus are usable, to coordinate faculty/student and Facilities Management activities, and re-evaluate the proposal submission and implementation processes.
- Contact person for site use form: Beverly Collins