

MOTION

That action to renovate, remodel, and remove and replace furniture from the Faculty Lounge be suspended until such time as the Faculty is allowed to have input into decision-making regarding the future function and usage of the space.

JUSTIFICATION

Inasmuch as ---

1. The only notice of impending change to the furnishing, remodeling, and intended primary function of the Faculty Lounge has been a poster at its entrance informing the Faculty of changes being made. We believe the Faculty should have input into any plan that would dramatically change the historical usage of the Faculty Lounge.
2. This is the only space on campus dedicated to the Faculty. It has housed a Faculty Club and provided a hub for faculty exchange – both academic and social. Current faculty attest to its appeal as a recruiting tool and older and retired faculty feel its historic usage as a space for faculty exchange should be honored.
3. Faculty donated money to pay for the room, and therefore the Faculty should determine how the space will be used and whether the character and intended primary use of the room should be changed.
4. Members of several groups (such as the Society of Foundation Professors, Retired Faculty of Eastern, and the Development Office) have informally voiced disapproval of the proposed changes. Destroying the historic character of the room, as currently in the works, offends many who will demonstrate their disapproval by reduced donations of time, expertise, and money to the University.
5. Given the current demoralized state of the Faculty, the timing is especially unfortunate for swift action without faculty input.
6. There are other spaces on campus for the proposed faculty training space (Training Resource Center in Stratton, a room being “decommissioned” in Whalen, etc.). Other spaces for the proposed faculty training space should be explored and evaluated.
7. The proposed changes do not significantly alter the seating capacity of the room.
8. There are other significant needs for faculty-dedicated space. For example, the Faculty Senate needs an office. One of the former small lounges adjoining the Faculty Lounge could be dedicated to that faculty need. Other faculty needs for space should be explored.

9. The security and accessible display of faculty silver and other valuable historical faculty artifacts in the room should be guaranteed.

10. "Faculty Development" can take many forms, many of which do not involve training using technology or a workshop environment. Possibly faculty may desire the Faculty Lounge be designed to accommodate a different professional development model. Other options for the room should be explored.

11. Many faculty groups now use the room for meetings because of the special character of the room. The proposed new furniture will drive away some of these groups (for example, The Society of Foundation Professors, the ECU Chapter of the AAUP, and so on).

12. Over years, the intended primary use of the Faculty Lounge has become confused. Originally the Faculty Lounge was a hub of informal faculty social, academic, and intellectual exchange. Later, when universities began to offer Teaching and Learning Centers, ECU changed one of the adjoining side lounges into office space for Dr. Doug Robertson, who did his own research and writing in the area of faculty development and offered occasional presentations to colleges and the university as a whole. With the advent of Dr. Sweet and Dr. Blythe and changing educational trends, the number of presentations increased and professional learning communities developed; for convenience, these activities were often scheduled in the Faculty Lounge and over time the function of the Lounge as a hub of faculty interaction diminished. Now, the Faculty Lounge is sometimes referred to as the TLC when used for faculty development offerings. This gradual transition in the primary intended use of the Faculty Lounge requires open discussion, faculty input, and clarification.