

## **2016-17 Report of the Facilities and Educational Resources Committee (FERC)**

During 2016-17 committee members were Annmarie Butler (LAS), Katie Baumgarn (FP&M), Veronica Dark (chair), Radford Davis (VET), Benjamin Dirks (SG), Jim Hill (ENG), Steven Hoff (CAL), Ellen Rasmussen (SVPP) Yoshi Suzuki (BUS), and Ann Smiley-Oyen (CHS). DES and GPSS did not appoint members.

The full committee met twice, once in Fall and once in Spring. At the fall meeting, Katie Baumgarn was officially recognized as an ad hoc member from FP&M.

Katie served as the primary conduit for informing the committee about renovations. She also served as the main conduit for informing the committee about changes to how room scheduling and the registrar's office are working to make the course scheduling process more efficient. Members of the committee noted that there had been improvement by a couple of weeks in alerting departments of the need to change rooms/times for the next semester's course offerings. In the fall, FERC also discussed a situation in which DPS enforced a new policy disallowing any access to buildings locked on weekends and after hours, a change never communicated to faculty. In response to an enquiry from the FERC chair, Kate Gregory, Senior VP for University Services, agreed that such policy changes should be widely vetted before implementation and that had not occurred. Given feedback from room scheduling and others, the new policy was not adopted.

In the fall, Katie and Ellen described an ad hoc committee headed by Dave Holger that is looking at room scheduling and utilization. Over the summer this committee sorted through data looking for patterns about classroom utilization and examined room scheduling guidelines and policies of peers. The committee has members from room scheduling, the Registrar's Office, CELT, and the Provost Office. At our request, two members of FERC attended the fall meeting of this committee and were also invited to the spring meeting. Among other things, FERC representatives were asked to provide input on how/whether facilities and scheduling supported/hindered faculty ability to employ new pedagogy and to do things "outside the box". The ad hoc committee may recommend a room scheduling policy similar to one that was in place at ISU until about 15 years ago. FERC believes it is very important that we be part of this discussion as the representatives of the faculty.