CCF Report: Motor Pool Survey:

Summary:
After receiving many anecdotal remarks about the restrictions on state vehicles usage, CCF decided to survey users to gauge the consequences of the new policies. Specifically, the purpose of the survey was to assess if any actions needed to be taken to rethink vehicle usage procedures and policies.

While analyzing the results of the survey, CCF concluded that Motor Pool did not fully serve the purposes for supporting education. In our opinion “official use” has been defined too narrowly, and it has not taken into account the pedagogical functions that Higher Education has as compared to other state government agencies.

Faculty, staff and students were generally positive about the existence of state vehicles and the approachability of the support personnel. Unfortunately, because of the new regulations, many others were obliged to use other forms of transportation or cancel events. This diminished the educational value of students’ experiences at their university. The students, staff and faculty felt this in two ways: first directly, because it was simply denied for an activity, and/or indirectly, they became frustrated by the inconveniences caused by the new rules.

Therefore, CCF has brought forward some recommendations that we believe will lead to a more positive academic experience for the students and improve the morale of staff and faculty. These recommendations are made in an effort to foster the core academic values of Higher Education.

About the survey:
The survey was sent to all faculty, staff and students on all campuses in the NDUS system. 682 responses were received between January and March 2015. From this survey we can derive that it is indeed necessary to revisit the new state vehicle usage policy, since it does seem to restrict educational experiences. In order to fulfill the core mission of the NDUS system, we will present recommendations for improvement that range from cutting through motor pool red-tape to suggestions for change of the rules themselves.

The recommendations are:

- Omit the requirement that an activity has to be in a syllabus at the start of the semester.
- Recognize that out-of-class experiences are also part of the educational process.
- Use flexibility in determining eligible users (for example, more flexibility in use of student drivers as well as recognizing that non-NDUS personnel may need to be transported in vehicles if it is for educational purposes).
- Reduce requirements/red tape for faculty and staff to use state vehicles.
- Add financial or material resources to the motor pool funding base in order to cover any changes in costs for coverage.

Details about the Survey
All universities within the system have participated; the survey was held among faculty, staff and students, and by far the highest participation came from faculty (78%). The survey was administered between January and March, 2015.

The number of respondents was 682.

Of those respondents, 465 considered using a state vehicle, and additional 235 considered using a state vehicle more than once (total is exactly 700). Yet some respondents who wrote “no” in “did you
consider using a state vehicle,” did not do this because they knew it would be denied or because they found the process to be cumbersome.

**Did you consider to use a state vehicle?**

- **Yes [465]**
- **No [213]**

**Did you consider to use transportation for a second activity since March 2014?**

- **Yes [235]**
- **No [229]**

Of those 465, 148 did **NOT** use a state vehicle which is approximately 1:3 of the 235; 69 did not use a state vehicle which is somewhat less than 1:3. Thus, out of the total 700 persons wanting to use a state vehicle, 187 did not. This is approximately 1:4.

**Did you use a state vehicle?**

- **Yes [315]**
- **No [148]**
Did you consider to use transportation for a second activity since March 2014?
Did you use a state vehicle?

No [69]
Yes [163]

Reasons for not using a vehicle:
In 20/187 cases was a state vehicle denied.
In 53/187 cases the state vehicle was not requested because it would have been denied
In 94/187 cases other forms of transportation were more convenient
In 38/187 cases the respondents indicated “other”

Why did not you use a state vehicle?

Using other [63]
There were no [1]
Other [26]
You requested [14]
You did not [45]

Did you consider to use transportation for a second activity since March 2014?
Why did not you use a state vehicle?

Using other [31]
There were no [2]
Other [12]
You requested [6]
You did not [19]
How did new rules affect the usage of State Vehicles?
The main reason was that other forms were more convenient (about half the respondents). This was closely related to new regulations: such as one can not take the state vehicle home, one has to pass an exam, one can not do anything personal (even on a long trip), the whole process is cumbersome and the prohibitive cost. “This process has led me to believe that it was someone's idea to keep faculty from using motor pool just by making the process so Byzantine. Next time, I will probably just take my own vehicle....”

How did it affect teaching and research?
There are fewer extra curricular activities because of the new state vehicle policy. Even though some field trips did go through, others did not. All has to be announced in the syllabus, and it needs to be class related. This denies student clubs field trips, international students an ability to get to learn about the state, and club sports denied (whereas regular athletics do get vehicles). Student usage of state vehicles remains restricted and this means that the usage of state vehicles for larger groups of students are more problematic. “In an academic setting where collaboration is encouraged it seems ridiculous those of us who try to collaborate with individual colleagues from neighboring institutions (i.e. MSUM, Concordia) cannot because of policies like these that are frankly designed for you to cover your behind in case of an accident. It's sad, really.”

How does this new policy affect morale?
Faculty, staff and students want to be treated fairly and equally. Unfortunately, the new policies do not foster this. There seems to be a dividing line between athletics and club sports, some are allowed and some are not to use state vehicles. The faculty get frustrated, boycott the whole policy altogether (even though using personal vehicles might be more expensive), and feel betrayed by the new policies. Although there were some positive comments too, in general the tone of the comments are negative, which is not good for student, staff and faculty retention. Awkward denials for “representing NDSU at a former student's funeral: Family requested that a choir that their son had been a part of sing at his funeral” do not help.

Five main restrictions:
1. Field trips have to be in the syllabus to prove it is part of the class. This does not allow for flexibility: everything has to be determined before the semester starts.
2. Education is only perceived to take place as part of classes. Out of class experiences should also count towards curriculum. Club sports and student clubs do enhance education too.
3. Student driving is restricted, this is especially difficult when you have a larger group.
4. Only employees in the university system are allowed in state vehicles. Even if it benefits the NDUS system; they can not be in them.
5. Accessibility of state vehicles has too many restrictions (time wise, not being able to go home with vehicle, no shopping even if it is part of the trip).

How to do it? Talk and make recommendations.
1. Change the tone for motor pool. In many cases the faculty, staff and students are positive about the staff member who administer the state vehicles. A change of tone will help both the staff of the motor pool facilities on the different campuses as well as the users. First there needs to be an easy explanation how everyone can still use the state vehicles, and provide alternatives, when this is more restricted. More information “it has to be in the syllabus” can be helpful too. The impression that students, staff and faculty want to do good, and need to be helped to achieve their educational purposes should be at
the center of using state vehicles. It should not be a burden to faculty, students and staff to use a state vehicle.

2. Rethink how state vehicles can be used within the framework of the new rules. An easing off of some of the rules, or rather a more liberal interpretation of the rules might help out and lighten the burden.

3. On an individual level some rules may be interpreted more strictly among the different campuses. Maybe we can look at the comments on our campus and see if they can be studied by the individual faculty senates.

4. Ask for the rules to be restudied: do they fulfill the purposes? This is more difficult, but now the rules have been in place for about a year, we can point out some of the problems, and this may lead to a renegotiation.

5. In last resort more material and/or financial resources allocated by the NDUS system/individual branches of the university system: either universities can get their own cars that are not part of the motor pool (student clubs from alumni?) or renting cars. Some problems are not solved by this (e.g. student driving, insurance), but it can also send a message.

Reactions in the survey:

These were the reasons for the more convenient to use other state vehicles:

Many cited new rules made things more time consuming.
Need to make it easier to use a car, van or bus. and reducing the restrictions on use would be good.
I had to wait a month for my state fleet card.
We are adult PhDs and should be treated as adult PhDs: Student Field Trip to Area businesses
Although I could have had a state vehicle, the new procedures required me to sign out the vehicle between 7:30 and 8:30 AM the Friday before the Monday meeting. I am not allowed to have the vehicle at my house, but I have to have it checked out all weekend where I cannot monitor the vehicle. Then I have to drive to the motor pool. I was asked by the state Superintendent of Schools to serve on an advisory council. The meeting was an all day meeting in Bismarck which started at 8:30 AM on a Monday.
Attended a three day conference out of town and wanted to be able to do activities in area in evening that we're not conference related.
I generally use my own vehicle for travel. The time and inconvenience of getting a state vehicle is prohibitive, and generally, since I do a lot of research that involves students, who need to get to the venue, I cannot.
Big hassle to do all that is required
Other forms of rental were so much cheaper that even though they were not as convenient we chose to use a rental car company.
Needed buses and those are not offered through our institution any longer.
Riding with college president.
It is challenging not being able to use SF vehicles to transport groups of student leaders to conferences that will enhance their growth. It has, in turn, limited the ability for us to take students to conferences that they want to go to.
In the past I have used state vehicles to transport students to Fargo and Minneapolis for Museum tours, theatre performances and college tours. Taking prospective transfer students to tour Universities they will potentially attend.
Although I could have had a state vehicle, the new procedures required me to sign out the vehicle between 7:30 and 8:30 AM the Friday before the Monday meeting. I am not allowed to have the vehicle at my house, but I have to have it checked out all weekend where I cannot monitor the vehicle. Then I have to drive to the motor pool. I was asked by the state Superintendent of Schools to serve on an
advisory council. The meeting was an all day meeting in Bismarck which started at 8:30 AM on a Monday.

My job takes me out of the office frequently during the day. On really cold days I prefer to use my own car which has an auto start feature.

I knew I would also be visiting family.

Not worth the time it takes to jump through the hoops to use a state vehicle.

Have not taken the driving course.

The idea that having to take a half day training to satisfy some risk management paper pushers is more than abhorrent!!! It is far easier to take own vehicle, even though the university has to pay more per mile!!!

We took students to Minneapolis. Student travel to a professional conference in Minneapolis. The new policy is highly restrictive. We have quit requesting state vehicles.

A professional conference we annually take students to.

Due to scheduling conflicts (teaching class during each opportunity) for the Safety Driving course that is offered once-twice per academic year, and new restrictions, I have opted to use my personal vehicle for trips that could otherwise allow use of a state vehicle. Transporting artwork to Fargo, and attending exhibition opening.

NDCPD/SENIOR MEDICARE Patrol presentation @ Heart of America Health Fair in Rugby- but POV was used because we made a personal stop to visit family member after health fair.

Too many restriction due to abuse from past employees that new employees are penalized for. 3 day conference where I was staying overnight but due to restrictions of a state car I was unable to leave the hotel where the conference was in my downtime. Rules dictate that I can't use the state car for personal use such as shopping etc...

Use to use a van for transporting middle school children to observe college campus, but new policies have made this tougher to accomplish, so don't offer this anymore.

It is inconvenient and unreasonable to limit faculty to motor pool vehicle use to only those instances listed on a syllabus. Why penalize spontaneity?

State fleet vehicles generally are of low quality (no features), much lower than rental cars. (UND)

I travel on work related business often. Trying to use a state vehicle is inconvenient and a hassle.

It's frustrating to have this as one more barrier for graduate students to fully participate in research:

data collection that involved student travel to distant sites.

I was going to lead a group of students to Chicago for a student conference.

I considered using a state fleet car for research in the Bakken Oil region in Williston, ND. I was very pressed for time and did not apply due to a very tight research schedule.

I dislike using state vehicles. When I am in another city to teach and/or advise the policy restricts what I can do in my free time. I cannot run personal errands or go out to eat. (UND)

Further, for personal safety I prefer to drive a vehicle I know and have properly maintained. I want my vehicle to have safety features I consider essential. I cannot assume this is true of state vehicles.

Order a car from Enterprise they deliver it and pick it up no need to do the gas, vacuuming etc.. We attend meetings and it is often more convenient to use personnel transportation. This is especially important if the weather is bad or we will be returning after dark. I do not consider the current fueling location to be safe. I also think it's inappropriate to be filling a car with gas at 20 below after dark. (UND)

The system is too cumbersome and the costs charged to the departments are too high. It is more convenient and less expensive to use our own vehicles and claim mileage. If you want the system to be truly useful, make it easy and low cost.

The cost is too high and there were no other options than bill direct to department.

Travel to a professional meeting transporting students for attendance. We could not use university vehicles due to the syllabus restriction.
I have avoided using vehicles because of the hassle and regulations. Filling up gas is too much trouble and so I prefer not to use state vehicle. It seems to have gotten more complicated and troublesome than it used to be. Now it is more of a hassle than it should be, so it is easier to simply use my own car and get mileage reimbursement. I have basically stopped thinking about using state vehicles for my travel needs. In years past, I used to take students to different conferences as well as visits to state-funded institutions using state vehicles. I don't consider doing that anymore. If I personally need to travel for work related activity, I do so on my dime and in my car. I wanted to attend a SBHE meeting but decided not.

Other forms are more convenient, as the fleet service attitude is exceptionally poor. For example, they will not bring the vehicles to the users, as do many companies. They park in spaces that say 15 minutes only, for all day. In general, it is not a service mentality, it is a compliance and control mentality. (NDSU)

University Club Activity: meeting with potential employers in Minneapolis. (Used own vehicle).

Rules and regulations are far too cumbersome; take much more effort than either using a personal vehicle or renting a vehicle from a commercial vendor. On either of the latter cases, I can be sure of arranging transport for my field trips, whereas, with state vehicles, that is somewhat problematic. I mentor a field trip for students to Minneapolis each October, for the purpose of attending the Medical Device Manufacturing Exposition and, while we are in the area, visiting one or two cutting-edge facilities working in research and/or manufacture of advanced medical devices. In past years, these trips have been very productive -- leading, for example, the opportunity for NDSU undergraduates to deliver a seminar to a group of faculty and doctoral students at U of Minnesota. Time Constraints.

I live in Grand Forks and the conference was in Fargo. Because I couldn't keep the car at my house in Grand Forks overnight, It didn't make sense to drive into Mayville to get a state fleet. We do a fourth grade experience in Hatton. I only need to observe a portion of it. The other faculty use a van and transport the college students. It has been more convenient to us my own vehicle. The majority of voice faculty from North Dakota universities (and other universities nationwide) belong to the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Annual state-wide auditions are held for the students of these faculty. The winners receive a cash award, and bring recognition to the teacher and, by extension, to the university they attend. The designation as a NATS finalist or winner is valuable to the student hoping to attend graduate school. The learning experience for the students is profound, as all attendees grow through immersion in performance and observation. It was a historical geography tour, we toured unique geographic features and historic buildings and residential districts noting growth patterns and building styles that have been used in the city. The restrictions of use of state vehicles makes teaching less flexible and reduces the opportunities for student engagement off campus. The rules seem to indicate the NDUS has terrible insurance or distrusts drivers. Sad.

Driving to the airport for a conference.

Need to make it easier to use a car, van or bus. and reducing the restrictions on use would be good. Went to corporate(factory) training to gain new information for classes. Was more convenient to use personal vehicle do to having some none state employees riding from hotel to training center with me. Also the restrictions on where we can drive the car and the mileage charge are ridiculous. big hassle to do all that is required. Other forms of rental were so much cheaper that even though they were not as convenient we chose to use a rental car company. Needed buses and those are not offered through our institution any longer. I use a state car when I need to go to something with out students. Pick up of student.
Denied:
Told insurance would not allow it – PTK regional meeting
Museum Tour
Student Club Trip
It was an activity in Bismarck to which I had brought students in 2011 but was denied my request for a state van this time around. This was not for a course but an optional cultural trip for interested students.
Community Service project: Our student-athletes were scheduled to pick up trash along the highway, but our request for a vehicle for transportation was denied. So we just picked up trash around campus instead.
Conference put on by the author of one of my textbooks for a class I was taking. (By student) Academic peer conference at another university which would showcase research done by other students in our field
I took students to see important features in the county. (“no budget” – did not use state vehicle). Take the Criminal Justice club- 8 students- to the New England women's prison for a educational tour. It is very hard for the employees to be restricted to not being able to go to a grocery store, etc., when they have the vehicles.
You make it too difficult. You have to justify how the State will benefit when you reserve a car for UND business. I personally think the motor pool for cars should be abandoned. Every time I drive by, which is daily, there are a lot of cars sitting idle and not in use. This is waste to the state.
Not being able to use vehicles to transport students for anything that is not listed on the syllabus has caused hardships not only for club activities, but also for students that come to school from out of state by plane, train or bus. These students have to hire cabs to get from Minot or Rugby to Bottineau which I was told by one student just yesterday that it cost him $125.00 for a cab to bring him from Minot to Bottineau when he flew back after the Christmas break.
Class Field trips. However, I would have taken a trip to MPLS to expose students to other areas of Horticulture that don't exist in ND such as the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and several Wholesale floral suppliers but club activities can not use state vehicles anymore: loophole
Students went to a conference that was not a requirement of the class, and not in the syllabus. It costs more for the university to pay mileage for students to take their own vehicles than it would for them to take a minivan or university vehicle.
For me, the use of a state vehicle is more trouble than it's worth. Especially in the winter.
Idea of using state vehicles is very good; process is burdensome--can't have at home overnight, for example, makes early morning trips difficult.
I did not know it was required to take a state vehicle. There is also no easy way to make a reservation for it.
Representing NDSU at a former student’s funeral: Family requested that a choir that their son had been a part of sing at his funeral. But it was allowed for: one of our choirs went on tour to perform and recruit at High Schools.
I wanted to use a van for a 10-day field trip with 7 students. (UND)
BUT DID USE: Taking student members of Robotics club to the Robotics Competition in Minneapolis (NDSU) and other similar ones.
We weren't allowed to use a state vehicle for our short course since we would be transporting non-NDUS personnel. Had to rent vans from a rental agency which cost quite a bit more than state fleet vehicles. Our short course brings in participants from industry, academia and industrial labs. We use the Radisson for the main hotel and hold our course on campus. We need vehicles to transport the attendees from the Radisson to campus and to lunch each day of the one-week course.
Student at MiSU: I feel that I would have had more experience received from my internship if I wasn’t limited to in town cases due to inaccessible transportation. Minot Infant Development Program serves clients across 7 counties, therefore only being able to take on cases in Minot limits the amount of experience I could be receiving. My place of internship, Minot Infant Development Program, located on campus, inquired about me using a state vehicle to go on home visits, which is what the other staff in the program utilize. They were told I was not able to do this because I am a student and me using the vehicle would not directly benefit the university, even though this program is through the university. Due to this, I was extremely limited to the caseload I could take on as I could not afford to travel outside of Minot city limits with my vehicle with being a student in their internship.

Clubs and organizations should be able to use state vehicles. Students should not have to drive personal vehicles for club or academic purposes. American Fisheries society meeting in South Dakota. Meet new people job opportunities. Listen to new research in our field.

Club event through the school go and listen to a presentation in near by town.

Mt. Rushmore trip denied since not a class or academic related. Was a trip to Mount Rushmore for students of an organization.

A meeting (other staff).

**Because it would be denied:**

Building Tour

TRiO program orientation and career education activities.

There were multiple occasions we would have liked to be able to access state vehicles: to do student leadership development and team building workshops at a high ropes course 100+ miles away, to help orientate students to our community, for financial literacy workshops for low income students at grocery stores and thrift shops, for job shadowing and career exploration tours and probably many other things that aren't feasible financial when student groups need to be transported via rented bus or in multiple taxis.

I generally use my own vehicle for travel. The time and inconvenience of getting a state vehicle is prohibitive, and generally, since I do a lot of research that involves students, who need to get to the venue, I cannot.

Student observation

Transporting Foreign dignitaries: Receiving foreign dignitaries as part of a university related group, send by the Department of State

Attending the National ACS conference in Denver, CO. Original plan was to drive in state vehicles, now we are investigating other (more expensive) alternatives.

In the past we were told policy did not allow the use of state vehicles to transport MiSU guests. (On campus academic arts activity for high schools and other higher ed campuses and the community).

Initial support activities for international students, who arrive in North Dakota completely unprepared, unfamiliar to the area, and do not have other means of support. Activities would have included: airport pick ups, initial shopping trips (we have had students from Africa arrive in January wearing sandals), hospital transportation for mandatory Tuberculosis screenings, and to banks to set up a local account.

Public transportation options in Minot are very limited -- the bus schedule is extremely limited and inconvenient, and taxis typically take longer than an hour to show up after being requested.

Unwilling to sit through an hour defensive driving course. I had such a course when i was 15. No need to take another: NDAS meeting and ecology class field trips.

Providing transportation for students in the club to attend regional conferences. Since it is a club activity it does not have a syllabus that can identify travel off campus.

Delegation of international visitors.

MiSU takes part in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Students compete in different theatre-related events and see a variety of productions throughout the week.
Transporting Accreditation Agency personnel from airport to university and clinical sites for survey visit.
Writers conference in Colorado springs.
Legislative meetings, conference. 1. Students testifying at committee hearings; 2. Social justice /advocacy day 3. ICWA conference.
I traveled throughout a 7 county area while completing an assessment for a grant funded project. My reasons for not submitting a request to use a SF vehicle: 1) I did not take the driving course required due to conflict with my schedule - teaching comes first; 2) This activity was completed through the University but not directly related to a course I teach; and 3) inconvenience/paperwork. I have cancelled or changed multiple clinical activities based on the restrictions. Not sure what the purpose of the SF is any more.
We take a group of students to a regional festival, often as many as 23 students attend. That takes more drivers than the number of faculty attending. We knew the student driver issue would come up and we would not be granted the right to use state vehicles, even though several students went through the testing process for usage.
Attended an academic conference with students. If the concern is liability if a student causes an accident, then don't allow students to drive state fleet vehicles. Not allowing students to be in state fleet vehicles for academic purposes defeats the purpose of students attending an academic institution. Conference for AIChE student chapter in Minneapolis. In the past we would send 15-20 students with one faculty advisor, using 2 state-owned vans, and student drivers.
UND School of Law's International Human Rights Organization trip to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg.
Facility tour student field trip: we all met at the facility for which the students had to find their own method of getting there.
An art opening at Plains Art Museum - Fargo. My colleagues told me that it wasn't even worth seeking permission to get a motor pool vehicle, because it takes too long to vet the activities. I had to ask students to drive the 4 hours themselves, and this discourages student experiences. If I drive and the school pays for fuel, students are much more likely to take in a new, valuable experience.
Attending a national conference that was taking place in a city within driving distance. Students were presenting at the conference as well as being attendees.
Students in an organization wished to visit reservations and speak with youths. It is not a requirement for a class.
Master Gardener field trip. The University vehicle use policy is overly restrictive. It has prevented me from driving my stakeholders to field days and other NDSU sponsored events.
Students attending a professional meeting.
Travel to a conference in Iowa. Wanted to pick up a person who I collaborate with on research projects as a rider from Minneapolis to Cedar Falls, Iowa. Found this out and drove own vehicle.
Fund raising meeting with prospective donors. I knew that policy prevented a non university employee from riding along.
I wanted to take a state car with students from an organization to their conference. I could not take students with me so had to take my own car.
But allowed: our student government takes monthly trips to meet with the North Dakota Student Association.
Student MiSU, academic/conference.
Professional Conference: In an academic setting where collaboration is encouraged it seems ridiculous those of us who try to collaborate with individual colleagues from neighboring institutions (i.e. MSUM, Concordia) cannot because of policies like these that are frankly designed for you to cover your behind in case of an accident. It's sad, really.
Class activity off campus. In HPER 130 Outdoor Pursuits we go cross-country skiing, often times we need to find appropriate snow off campus and I did not state using a fleet vehicle in the syllabus.

Participation as science fair judges. The vehicles should be available to student activities outside of class syllabi. The WSC students often act as judges for local school science fairs. There are club activities and other things.

Students in the Astronomy Club often do public outreach and education activities.

Transporting students to Bismarck for a tour to the State Capitol and Heritage Center for an educational tour.

Tour of industry.

Competition. We compete against several other colleges from other states each year with exercises that involve automation. The competition is held at a different school each year.

Judging a state event as part of my contractual duties.

Conference/academic. The inconvenience and additional cost (to hire a bus, we must pay the driver/bus line to first drive to Wahpeton from either Fergus Falls, MN or Fargo, ND and also pay for them to return following our need for them. Terrible waste of money and time. (NDSCS)

We took our class to Chicago for a field trip to a air-conditioning Refrigeration Heating EXPO. Seminars and product vendors from the world were there to show what new offerings they have. Seminars were top notch Technical presenters from manufacturers about products or the use of new technologies.

Did not use:
The college carpentry program builds a house on site. My students install the heating and cooling system for the house. This requires the use of truck to pick up materials and transport materials to the job site.

INBRE meeting

Our botany lab surveyed the prairie that was undisturbed. The prairie parcel was located about 2-3 miles west of Minot. Our professor was able to drive one state vehicle but there were more students that seats. Since I had a Jeep, I drove and three students rode with me. My vehicle followed the one the professor drove. This occurred in the early part of Fall 2014.

We used to use 15 passenger vans for local field trips during class periods. since our classes were over that number, we need to continue to rely on a licensed student to drive a minivan. That all changed a few years ago, no one knew how to solve the problem, or for that matter, seemed to care, so all field trip activity during my classes ended. it was a valuable learning tool, but no longer interested in cutting through all of the mass of red tape. Don't know how athletics does it, but its all but impossible for us. I most likely will never drive another state vehicle, as the attitudes and lack of caring by anyone in charge at MiSU ruined it.

Our whole class of 25 students needed to travel and there was only one faculty member. Our class visits 4 local schools during the semester to observe development of k-12 students at different age levels.

Students attending conference who were not University employees.

The process of reserving vehicles in advance does not work for some research opportunities, as we often need transportation with no notice. The cost of vehicles is quite high & paperwork difficult, so I often just use my own vehicle and do not even ask to get reimbursed because of the cost and difficulty of the process. At my former university, I used motor pool much more often.

I was unaware of the policy (new faculty) and did not have the activity specified in my course syllabi.

Planned to take students in Entrepreneurship class on a field trip to Bismarck to meet with an engineering/manufacturing company that provides prototyping and manufacturing services.

Fleet usage has restrictions even though the base activity would be allowed, when gone for several days, personal needs beyond just staying in the hotel, usage would have been questionable.
Our hockey program is fully invested on the campus of Minot State University. The program receives money from the student government association to provide assistance for travel. Unfortunately we can use the vans because our program is not under athletics.
We host a public humanities symposium which serves both our own faculty, staff, and students, as well as interested citizens from the region and around the nation. We transport speakers to and from the airport and hotels, and provide shuttle transport for speakers and guests around the campus. Industry tours for students related to curriculum topics.

No Vehicles available
MiSU: same person, for student observation and a meeting.
This was the Paleontology field trip. I had told students that this was a required field trip and set aside a couple dates. As weather is a determining factor as to if a field trip will happen for a weekend or not (rain is not conducive to collecting fossils), I had to wait for a weather forecast before I could request state vans - and due to the size of the trip (16 students) I would have needed 2 15 passenger vans. These were not available because athletics had requested them all. It later turned out that athletics did not need them and released the vehicles back. Unfortunately by this time it was too late to take the Paleo field trip, and as a result of not having enough vehicles (15 pass vans) the field portion of the class had to be cancelled.

Additional comments:
One may see this as a death to many student organizations. Even organizations where faculty have assigned "serve as an advisor" assigned by the university with have issues. A source of additional income will be needed to fund any trips, thus another advisor task, making the advising of any student group less appealing.
By student: There seem to be so many state vehicles parked at MiSU. It would be nice if we could access them for school related trips.
The process is frustrating. Not being able to add in activities after finalizing a syllabus severely limits an instructor's ability to provide students with the best, most transformative learning experience possible. (But did use state vehicles).
I consistently see reckless driving from the state vehicles around campus. It's always a white work truck with a male driver and no passengers.
The rules have become so exclusive that it impedes quality education.
Question: Is there a waiver of some sort that the students could sign that would allow group transportation in a van? Transportation is a major factor when planning group student trips. Putting liability in the hands of the individual student and forcing them to drive their own vehicles to far away places is ridiculous. Having one van with students proactively pursuing personal enrichment is more conducive then having several vehicles on the road. The amount of energy consumed individually should be reason enough to allow students to be transported. Do the risk management numbers on the extra number of vehicles on the roads and the possibilities for accidents. It is sad the State of North Dakota would take the "it's not our problem approach" by forcing students to drive themselves....or better yet just not go on trips. Bad decision making at its finest.......
The University of Wisconsin-River Falls had a course in years past where students were require to take and pass a test before being able to drive a university vehicle. A check on the driver's violations and a simulation driving test could be included for the ND university system on a driving course test to qualify for driving for university activities. This could keep down the cost of the necessary insurance if the regulations were to allow selected students to drive state vehicles again.
As a dispatcher for motor pool, I find it frustrating that people feel that it is the individual universities that make the decision to deny a vehicle. They take it out on us even though we are following the
guidelines given to us. I think it would be good to have a list on the website of the rules so that they can look at it & it shows that Risk Management has set forth these guidelines.

Issues of what constitutes personal use while the vehicle is in use are excessive. If someone travels to another city, the car is their only transportation. Errands, dinner and a host of other uses would and should be expected. If we travel to work with an area teacher and they are unable to ride in the car to dinner, the policy is thoughtless. Similarly, there are numerous circumstances where non-university personnel should be allowed to ride in a vehicle while it is in use. This could be a spouse, a high school student associated with the event, a fellow teacher, etc. The university employee using the car should be empowered to assess the circumstance and the car's appropriate use. As cars are used for local use, they should be allowed to be taken the evening before. Having to pick the car up in the morning, at times even before the university is open is an untrusting and excessive restriction. This kind of preparation for travel is as important as any other part of the plan. Students are frequently involved in activities that are part of their education but not a required part of a class or curriculum. They should not be blocked from using state vehicles when their work exceeds the class syllabus. This policy assures that only the lower achiever is supported by the university policy. Most changes have been unnecessary and counter productive.

This was a waste of time. (An “other staff member” who went to Several Meetings and technical assistance for grant funded projects.)

As field experience is necessary in the education of our Geology students, I will only be increasing the number of field trips that I design into my classes. MISU should consider either 1) increasing the number of 15 passenger vans available; 2) not allow any single department to reserve all of any type of vehicle; or 3) allow the Geology Dept., through a fundraising drive to our alum, to purchase its own vehicle.

The state policy seems excessively restrictive in what it considers academic activities. Also, the idea that students in organized activities, other than athletics, don't represent the state and therefore can't use state vehicles seems absurd.

Several other field trips for my Physical Geology (GEOL105) Class were never even considered during the study period (2014) because of the hassle and uncertainty of getting a vehicle. Traditionally, the class has 20 students in it and it becomes difficult to line up drivers with the proper credentials if there is not a large enough van for the whole class.

There is very little a state vehicle can be used for with all the new rules and regulations. A request is a waste of time and effort.

The limitations placed on vehicles puts constraints on students' learning. Connecting classroom concepts to activities is important for students to actually apply concepts and to create experiences that deepen learning.

If students are involved in research and are presenting their research at a conference they should be allowed to ride in state vehicles with a faculty member driving.

Some state regulations regarding the use of state vehicles is inflexible and makes augmenting classroom instruction more difficult. (But did use state vehicle for field trip).

This policy severely impedes our ability to provide experiences off of campus for our student groups. It is also hypocritical, that state fleet vehicles can be used for sports teams but not other student groups. Prohibiting student organizations from using state vehicles makes it much more difficult and much more expensive to travel to conferences, visit industrial facilities, and participate in other valuable learning experiences within the region. (But did use state vehicle for a meeting).

The policy for not being allowed to take the vehicle to one's residence needs to be revisited. There are significant costs associated with having to arrange alternative transportation to and from the motor pool. Further, and most importantly dropping a state vehicle off after hours to a dark and secluded motor pool represents a significant danger especially to female staff and is an unacceptable risk. The vehicle should be permitted to go to a residence, but not used for personal purposes.
The process for using a state fleet car should be made as easy as possible for faculty who are often on very intense research schedules both during semesters and during summer months. In general I think that that motor pool vehicles should be as widely available to a range of uses as possible. Perhaps student groups should be allowed to use vehicles if the activity is approved. Perhaps vehicles could be billed to a person through a department or something. (UND)

I think the State Motor Pool should be allowed for any University Function, including University sponsored Events and CLUBS/STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS!

As an adviser for many student organizations, this policy restricts the universities mission by denying these groups opportunities to travel to conferences and other legitimate academic-related meetings and events.

I am always upset when going to a conference using a state vehicle with a student, and being told that a student attending a conference "is not state business" (Did use state vehicles).

Did use state vehicles, but: Every year we take the graduating students from our program to the Minneapolis/St. Paul area for a final training field trip. We have to leave campus in order to provide this training, as the closest facility that has the equipment we are looking for is in the Twin Cities. If we didn't go on the trip we would need millions of dollars to purchase this equipment, which so far has not been funded in our program budget.

Not being able to easily provide external activities to students is a major obstacle.

We had a NDSU Extension Master Gardener field trip. I wanted to check out a 15 passenger van. I knew this would not be acceptable so I didn't bother. I had to rent a school bus and pay $400 for 4 hours.

I attended a field day at a Research and Extension Center. I wanted to take a private grower to the event in a state fleet vehicle. I was told that we could not take stakeholders in a state fleet vehicle so we had to drive separately.

Renting from Enterprise is more convenient and has been more economical for me. Having a state fleet for cars, vans and smaller trucks seems like a waste of money. I think the university system should work more with a provider like Enterprise. I would assume this would be a place where money could be saved.

I have a comment about the rate increases for use of state vehicles. These changes will place an undue burden upon myself and any other research scientist who relies on budgeted grant funds to pay for state vehicle use. I have two research grants that were written and approved before the rate changes were announced. These grants will fund all the research I will conduct through the end of 2017. All travel to research sites was budgeted on these grants using the current and soon to be defunct rates. Therefore, I will not have enough funds to pay for the travel needed to conduct my research as of July 1 2015. This does not seem fair. I wonder if the people making these drastic changes understand the impact on people like myself? I think a fair approach would be to grandfather in the old rates for people with university approved grants that included specific amounts for travel with state fleet vehicles. As this situation is now, I have no idea how I am going to conduct my research once the new rates go into effect.

The whole thing has gotten confusing.

People working in the office and processing requests are not always pleasant. They can make you feel like you are bothering them or you are interrupting their day rather than helping us with our request. (NDSU).

Maybe the universities should rent cars from a car rental agency and not state fleet.

The current policy created quite a bit of extra paperwork and often prohibits student participation in excellent learning opportunities.

One of the biggest problems, we have found, is that state vehicles really cannot be used for multi-day research projects or multi-day field trip classes. This is due to the rule of not being able to use the van
for personal needs. For instance, we cannot use the van to go to a laundromat, go to the grocery store, go to a restaurant, etc. It is impossible to NOT use the vehicle for personal needs in such situations. Granted, we understand the state's desire to avoid abuse of the system, but there should be circumstances (such as stated above) where personal use is allowed on multi-day education/research trips.

If the rental agreements were actually cheaper, we would use them. Also, it is not always clear if a rental vehicle is covered under the activity we are pursuing (the grey area between university and research/administration/personal).

Signing out a vehicle is not an easy process. Obtaining chair's approval it not the issue, however, now that students cannot ride in a vehicle really prohibits music groups from performing anywhere using state transportation. Of particular frustration was using the new fueling ID system. Mine did not work, even though I was approved. I had to call the 1-800 number listed to speak to an operator out of state and explain that I needed to gas up. Now it works, although it is just one more thing to have to remember. This process has led me to believe that it was someone's idea to keep faculty from using motor pool just by making the process so Byzantine. Next time, I will probably just take my own vehicle....

The restrictions are overly sensitive to risk aversion, and inconvenience or prevent many typical activities. The rationale that "we can't take the risk" is not viable. It may cost more in insurance premiums, but that expense is certainly worth the additional advantages of a more flexible situation about passengers and/or ability to rent from private firms.

The process is far too complicated. (Did use state vehicle).

Students have organized campus improvement projects which sometimes requires a pickup or another vehicle larger than a car, but they can't use something that the University has because of the rules. It worked well, we carpooled using 2 vans and were able to take most of the faculty from Bismarck to Fargo. (NDSU).

State fleet vehicles are necessary for the breadth of my extension and research program. Otherwise, I would be forced to rent vehicles from an independent source. Did use state vehicles (NDSU-Extension service).

The vehicles were not well maintained. It was dirty and more importantly it did not have a snow scraper during winter travel. The maintenance is so bad, I do not how we can expect faculty, students and staff to use them. (NDSU)

VSCU student: Unfortunately, I did not know this service was available. There really has been no need for the service in the event that a club trip happened.

If the state refuses to supply vehicles for student group trips and faculty conferences, what reason is there left for faculty to use university vehicles?

I believe that its just a bit to strict as many activities could take place if state vehicles could be used for the activities. If it is college related it should be okay.

Often, situations arise where the need for a vehicle cannot be foreseen within the requesting time line requirement as the need is almost of a emergency nature, filing out the request form, waiting for the response, especially on weekends make usage of a state fleet vehicle unreasonable due to lack of availability. Furthermore, there are times when traveling on state business, the opportunity arises to save money by staying with friends or family at some locations; Restrictions on state vehicles prohibit parking one of these vehicles at private residences. Finally, often when working in tribal communities, the only motel stay options are at the tribal casino. Though I have never personally gambled at one of these locations, am very uncomfortable parking a state fleet vehicle in the parking lot of a tribal casino. The restrictiveness of vehicle use makes it difficult to manage a trip with a group of people. (Did use state vehicle).

Had no problem accessing state fleet vehicles. Price was outrageous...but still used the vehicle. (MaSU)
The policy needs to be re-written.
The use of state fleet vehicles should be allowed for college lecture courses, labs, and campus based student organizations. Especially those student organizations that are a part of a academic/technical program of study.
The real issue (and, we understand the Risk Management side) is that we are unable to use fleet vehicles for typical uses-recruiting trips with students and faculty, trips to competitions that include non-state employees (accompanists), and are not able to substitute a rental vehicle in these situations-really stymies doing business off campus (which is a big part of performing arts work-performance and recruiting). We need to have some workable alternative.
Costs way to much to use state fleet...it shouldn’t cost less to fly somewhere as it does to drive a state fleet.
It is challenging not being able to use SF vehicles to transport groups of student leaders to conferences that will enhance their growth. It has, in turn, limited the ability for us to take students to conferences that they want to go to.
The ability for our student organization to utilize school vehicles is VERY important for us. Because of the added distance and traffic that is experienced in the Williston area, the ability to carpool in a state vehicle is essential for the overall safety of students that live in this area and travel to conferences/meetings/events that are often in other parts of the state.
The person creating this survey should learn proper English. Unprofessional.
I think it is unreasonable that student groups cannot use state fleet vehicles for their activities. These student groups are widely recognized as an important part of the collegiate experience, and we should be supporting their activities. Furthermore, it is my understanding that the state fleet is self-insured by the state, meaning that a lack of coverage for such activities is simply a decision that has been made by the state at some level and not an unmovable obstacle put in place by an insurance company. This, to me, simply represents lack of understanding of the higher education environment and/or lack of support for our students’ overall education.
NDSCS requires a number of forms to complete to reserve a vehicle, and those riding in the vehicle. Is this standard for NDUS? or just an NDSCS thing?
We receive no feedback on our status as a "legal" driver according to the state of North Dakota.
Example: No endorsements or expiration on endorsements on our NDDOT card.
It is important that State Fleet use be allowed to pick up new International students from the airport, take them to buy necessary items, open a bank account and transport them to and from the hospital after mandatory TB testing. In Dickinson we have very limited transportation services. Public Transit Buses have to be scheduled a day in advance and taxis are not freely available and are very expensive. It is important to note that these students come unprepared, unfamiliar with the area and have no alternate means of transportation. It gets extremely expensive to rent vehicles every time we want to take them on trips to Bismarck of Fargo. It is important to note that these trips are not to take them shopping but are educational trips, like the State Capitol and Heritage Center or the POW WOW or take them to Mount Rushmore. These students come here for an experience which we cannot extend to them because of these restrictive uses of the state fleet.
I was told, in an unofficial capacity, that faculty can no longer use state vehicles to drive to conferences in the state, and other professional development activities. If this is true, and I haven’t had an opportunity to test its truth, that would be a shame. (DSU)
The motor pool guidelines are too restrictive when using vehicles with students. We want students to participate and be active in clubs and organizations, then they tie our hands when we need to go off campus with students clubs, national and state sponsored events that represent NDSCS. I can rent vehicles from Alamo, Avis, Budget and others for less than I can use a state vehicle with the charges back to the departments. There are a lot of forms and processes that happen at NDSCS that I don’t believe...
are the same in the state system when discussing processes with other state entities. If at all possible I try not to use State Vehicles whenever possible because of the hassle. We are told to use State Vehicles as a first priority and only use personal vehicle when necessary. It is easier to use personal vehicle and state only when necessary. If the goal is to make the process so difficult that we quit using state vehicles they have just about met their goal!

The vehicles that are available for travel are usually not well-suited to the weather. Small cars and mini-vans without 4 wheel drive do not work well on icy roads in Southwest ND. Also, driving in a small car on the southwest part of the state makes you feel like a small fish in a small pond with sharks. It is like taking you life in to your own hands competing with large equipment and trucks on the road due to the oil traffic. (DSU).

I like the process of picking up the keys, use of the envelope, process for filling gas and access to dropping off keys. Thank you!

Absolutely ridiculous policy that is devastating to education department outcomes. The students are the ones losing the most. Survey them and ask their opinion about not being able to go on legitimate and beneficial activities that would impact their education, while at the same time the basketball team gets to travel wherever they want.

Why is the cost of a motor pool vehicle so high compared to the rental of a vehicle?

Keep the process simple, while still be attentive to risk management, travel safety, and professional efficiency.

The motor pool at NDSCS does a great job, have had excellent luck with the vehicles, newer and a lot less miles than my own. It is very convenient but I hear from my dept chair that it is a little expensive but he still promotes us using them. Wish the restrictions were a little less, like being able to take the vehicle home the night before so I could leave right from home, and being a little less nervous about having to stop at a Walmart or restaurant, and allowing non state employees to ride with us when you are out on the road for several days. Hope they continue to have a state fleet, it is nice to be able to use them.

With the large increase in cost why are we not allowed to take the long term vehicles home, all my usage is in the winter, so I have to warm my car up, get the snow off, scrap the windows, then drive to my office and do the same thing with the state vehicle.

Although I have not had the need, I appreciate the availability.

We do research for undergraduate students that is funded by the NIH which requires student travel to meetings. This research is not part of a class and most of the students are employees (which is a very undefined area as far as state vehicles), but to get more students involved we need to include other ones. It is not determined which conferences we can attend prior to the start of a semester so we can include it on a syllabus. Sometimes it requires the research work of the student to be accepted or they win a competition. We also work during the summer which is an NIH requirement and therefore we have no class to use a syllabus. We also don't include the entire class since we can't transport everyone. We can't make every student an employee also. The Athletics get to go and do anything they require so why can't research be included. This policy kills the use of field trips for classes and just lowers the academic standards here more and more. I don't know if our blanket statement listed in learner outcomes on course syllabi satisfies the policy issue. Frankly I think the policy is restrictive or tries to be restrictive. I guess if our statement holds up then it has not stopped us from providing these important learning opportunities for students. Learning opportunities, first hand experience and engagement of students should be paramount to the student experience at our institutions. Class field trips - I need a bus to accommodate all students. I did use a 15 passenger van on a couple of days for a smaller group field trip. I use a state vehicle for travel I need for intern supervision, meetings, conferences. Either way, I have thrown a blanket statement in all my syllabi ("Explore agriculture concepts and technology through regional field trips/farm shows."). I don't know if this covers the policy but we use it in our department.
For our unit in Minot, using a state vehicle is very difficult. Also, in North Dakota, using someone else's vehicle in the winter is not as good as using one's own.
The current policy is unduly restrictive in that it forces employees or students to accept added liability and cost. It will also reduce creativity and out of classroom student activities.