

**Transportation Services
Faculty-Staff Forum
Thursday, February 17, 2005**

Attending: Lisa McKown, Mary Morgan, Andy Garner, Cindy Engelmann Gary Gilmore, Justine Brydia, Carol Johnston, Judy Ludwig, Chuck Vrooman, Marsha Kelly, Emil Luea, Andre Josiah, Francia Cagle, Carl Richard, Tom Mather, Bob Mathis, Millie Wright, and Jane Schneider

Questions or Concerns

-Online registration

Liked the on-line registration thought that is was great/fine

-Do you review annually how many spaces departments are given?

Space allocations are the same as they were in the 1980's. The dynamics of this University have changed, and the allocation process needs to be updated to deal with today's needs and requests.

-Why even have Department Parking Representative if all we are doing is pushing paper?

- Will you have an opportunity to have seniority levels on the wait list?

- Maps-Printed – need some for the department

- Will rates for visitor lots be going up? No

-Will faculty/staff permits stay on annual basis? Yes

- Why do gated lots cost more?

Gated lots have a higher cost to operate

-Include the library in meeting with the College of Business and the College of Medicine to discuss PA 72 and PA 98 RE: gated lots

-Why are prices increasing so much so fast?

-Why did they build such a big garage used primarily for football?

At the time the WCG was in discussion several things were an issue:

1. UCG was full most of the time
2. demand for visitor parking showed that it was needed, because students would park there rather than hunting for a spots in the red lots
3. current bus service was not in place
4. commuter lots added before the completion of the WCG project to compensate for the spaces lost when construction began

-Ready to milk faculty/staff and not students-> permit pricing

- If we see you are willing to cut your costs or try to be more efficient (Tahoes/gas mileage/Ford Focus hybrid) we may be less resist to increases in our rates / it should be a give and take

-I park in PA 51- where am I supposed to park on game days, etc- what about letting permit holders in?

- PA 51 is a shortcut to PA50- clogs drive lanes in PA 51; can you educate/email PA 50 customers of the dangers/inconvenience they are creating?

We can send an email to the PA 50 customers requesting that they not cut through PA 51 to get their lot

- Bike racks in unused sections of lots- garages?

1. dangerous for riders to be in the garage

2. possible for bike racks to be installed outside the garage

- a. The campus Administration/Bicycle Task Force that is discussing many issues for bicyclists

- Weather takes a toll on bikes – better if covered storage units.

- What about improving motorcycle parking near Zachry-can you add more spaces? What about plans to increase motorcycle use? They are more efficient and take up less parking space

- Need improvements to motorcycle parking surface near Reed Bldg. and the Wisenbaker area

-Keep in mind that buildings are going up in the West Campus and will need the 5500 spaces that are there. Like the School of Rural Public Health.

Rural Health will have parking spaces with their building

-Is there any danger in Reserved Number Spaces going away? No

-Can you explain how Wait List works?

-ZA wants authority & responsibility for administering Wait List in our area

-If you can manage the Wait List like the department wants- we want to do it for us- but no one wants the same thing.

- What was the methodology in determining which types of lots saw what level of price increase, ie:

-10% for surface lot

-5.6% for priority bay Why?

-Staff is at the point of price resistance

- staff are having to elect to cut benefits (dental/vision) to offset increase in permit prices

-Would like a spread in prices-discount Reed Arena as a remote parking area

-Are you looking at increasing football fan prices?

No-did not fill all spaces available last year

- We are increasing 12th Man rates- getting them to market value
- Did Chemical Engineering pay for parking they covered? Yes
 - Why not put another parking lot next to Zachary?
 - Aren't you planning to eliminate transponders?
 - No, we are not issuing any to new customers at this time. Will issue once the technology is updated
 - Transponders work great!
 - Can you tap new building funds for parking? Not just the spaces the building covers but also to build more parking for the additional fac/staff who will work in the building
 - They do at some Universities
 - Would you pay for a transponder? \$25-\$30? YES
 - Transponders were one of the nicest things TS ever did- sent it to me FREE! I LOVE IT!
 - Department buys Reserved Numbered S spaces – How will we get in? Mag stripe, Generic card
 - Like the change to the entrances to CCG- long road for visitors to handle cueing & handle permit holders separately
 - down fall is coming in from the south – suggest coming in on Coke Street
 - Can you give fac/staff choices- 6 choices like students?
 - can the price be based on how close my parking is to my building i.e. PA 51 most expensive where PA100 is \$15.00
 - Remote lots generate a lot more cross traffic and it takes much more time to plan to drive to the remote lot, wait for a bus, then ride into campus, then walk to work.
 - Is there a pie chart where customers can see if student's fees pay for transit ...my money doesn't go towards this and stays for parking?
 - If they fix Ross Street how much would that improve bus service and reduce cost?
 - Are there donors who would fund a garage- Rod Weis Garage?
 - What effort is TS taking making to involve students in policy and decision making?
 - You ought to do away with ZA's – let parking take care of parking-
 - Where do you get your biggest headaches?
 - Customers or administration?
 - Display your Statistics for customers to see (basis for future forums?)

**Transportation Services
Faculty-Staff Forum
Thursday, February 22, 2005**

Attending: Robert McGeachin, Ron George, Sheila Fields, Rod Weis, Doug Williams, Dell Hamilton, Debbie Hoffmann, Peter Lange and Rose Berryhill

Questions or Concerns

Customer feel Administration is not and will not listen to them. So they will not attend the forums.

REW requested that tell their associates to email him if they have questions.

I realize that you were not here when the West Campus Garage started; but why did they build such a large garage?

Visitor usage showed a demand for the garage at the time the study was done. After the study was done; customers demanded area for the lot that went away the Administration expanded lots at PA 50, PA 100, PA 40 and PA 97. Then we also have placed an improve transit system that is helping the students move about campus without the use of their vehicles

Master Plan causes for 2 more underpasses, how will they be paid for? Funds have been identified for these by TxDOT

Does everyone understand the allocation process?

Is the Brown Building opened? Is it staffed? We were told that existing employees would be in the building and that it would not add any employees to the area.

Noticed less congestion in the PA 50 area

Why is PA 72 not full all of the time?

Difference in desperation and having a place to park

Concerns/Comments – trying to park on both sides of campus

Anything changes with the Transponders? Will we get to keep transponders?

We would be willing to pay to get a transponder.

I think that everyone at TS is very approachable. I don't mind calling and asking questions. I encourage my employees to go the TS website, it is wonderful. You can find everything that you need to know if people would just look for it.

Adjourned at 5:18 pm

Transportation Services

Faculty-Staff Parking Forum

February 28, 2005

Attending: Dr. Tim Hall, Michele Beal, Dale Pracht, B. Dianne Adams, Annette Shenkin, Stephanie Kern, Lisa Sprouse, Kim Witt, Betty Cotton, Carolyn Teeter, Sean Cargo, Lisa Rodriguez, Erin Robison, Jane Schneider, Chuck Sippial, Dell Hamilton, Pete Willis, Doug Williams, Kathie Mathis, Kenny Kimball, Peter Lange, Rod Weis, Debbie Hoffmann, June Broughton, Jennifer LeGrevellec, and Rose Berryhill

- When changes were made to the parking system last year, students were told that they would be parking in lots which were formerly yellow or staff lots.
 - Where are students parking in staff lots that they weren't parking in before? Not any
 - Are they parking in staff lots at all? Yes, Some of the Zone Administrator have place students in yellow lots
- What about the wait lists?
- Is the plan to keep University Center Garage Reserved Numbered Spaces? Yes, no plan to eliminate reserve number spaces. Reserve numbered spaces will have higher costs; but the employee can have the option of an unnumbered space or a reserved numbered space
- Removing Reserved Numbered Spaces is uncomfortable
 - Faculty are very busy people that need to get in and out quickly
- Concerned about rising permit prices
 - Helps your budget but hurts department budgets
 - For departments-it is a challenge to hire people who earn minimum wage, they're inability to pay higher permit prices is making it difficult to hire – grad students especially
- Transportation Services should manage the operation within your budget and not rely upon the customers to grow the budget
 - Other departments have to manage operations within a set budget that does not increase year after year
- What is your optimal permit price to balance your budget (if there would be no complaints from customers about having to pay it)?
- What is your solution to balance your budget?
 - Build no more spaces
 - Consider a reduction in staff thru attrition
- So the long term strategy is not to build any more garages

- Will the parking permit rates level off? Yes, if we do not have to build additional spaces or parking structures
 - Will there be no increase in service?
- It's going to be hard to hire employees with these high parking rates
- Curious about new building construction. How does this work with existing parking plan? Normally how a campus works is parking lots are holding space for future classroom needs and office space.
- Insurance benefits were adjusted/reduced so they didn't have to increase our insurance rates, yet you are still increasing our parking rates
- So people can go back to their department and tell them that parking prices will go up for the next 5 years and then level off?
 - No-after five years, should go up about the rate of inflation
- This is not Houston, so why are you comparing your parking rates to Universities in big cities; but the cost of building garages is the same
- So we have to pay more from our budget so that Transportation can build theirs?
- Debt service- will Transportation look at refinancing? When does some of your debt roll-off? (2010)
- Are UB's going away? We have no plans for UB's to go away. We are working to mag stripe the permits to make it easier for this type of permits. The customer's permit will be identified for this Option and they will not have to stand in line to see a cashier. They will just scan their permit at entry and when they leave the facility.
- Thanks for listening to us and for intercession parking! (Night permits valid during the days, etc.)
 - Cost of faculty and staff parking is done through their parking reps
 - This campus is different from many other university communities. No public transportation to campus
- Area of big concern-grad students
 - Difficult time recruiting due to low pay
 - Maybe the person who chose to build WCG should share in responsibility of paying
- Many of the faculty/staff were here before Reserved Numbered Spaces and they remember having to hunt for spaces – it did not work. We need our reserved numbered spaces
- Parking for faculty and staff is well done through Zoning Administrators - They can continue to be of help
- Maybe undergrads should pay the burden, although they understand why Transportation does not want that

- How is parking handled when they build a building right in the middle of campus (like new Chemical Engineering building)? - Can there still be convenient parking for these buildings?
- Do you get funding for parking when new buildings cover a parking lot?
- What types of bonds were issued for the garages? (Revenue)
- What about University Business placards/permits/overlays- will Transportation keep those? - yes
- Is the cost of a visitor permit going to rise? No, will stay the same next year
- Thank you for not using PA111 for events
- Will there be an actual cost to park for graduation? No, there is no cost for Muster either.
- Parking for baseball- it used to be included in ticket price and it is now paid separately
- Renewal process: What is the time? April 17-July 7 - Good that it moved
- Will we be able to get lists of people in our department who did not register to renew their parking permit? Yes the department representative will be able to see online reports indicating which of their staff has and has not renewed their permit
- Thanks!-someone was locked in Koldus and a student in the remote booth went out of her way to help. Service is obviously a goal.