

Transportation Services Advisory Committee

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 26, 2009

ATTENDEES: Dr. Angie Hill Price
Dr. Howard Kaplan
Hunter Bollman
Lallah Howard
Dr. Sherry Yennello for Dr. Joe Newton
Beth McNeill
Rosie Schoenfeld
Rod Weis
Logan Nichols
Nicole Franzetti
Brandy Kosh for Cheryl Hanks
Leah Flores
Brittany Jones for David Bierling
Dr. Dave Parrott

ABSENT: Robert Pottberg
Mike Caruso
Sheila Amos
Dr. Alan Love

GUESTS: Kenny Kimball
Doug Williams
Rose Berryhill
Peter Lange
Debbie Hoffmann

1.1 Welcome

- Dr. Price called the meeting to order
- Dr. Price requested for the members to review the handouts and minutes from January 22, 2009
- Dr. Price requested a motion to approve the January 22nd minutes
 - Asked the committee members for corrections
 - None noted
 - Hunter Bollman made a motion to approve the minutes
 - Logan Nichols 2nd the motion; all voted in favor to accept the January 22, 2009 minutes

2.0 Business

2.1 Draft of the Bicycle Rules and Regulations

- Dr. Price explained to the committee that these recommendations came from the Transportation Services Advisory Committee – Sub Committee for Bicycles; Dr. Clint Magill chaired the committee and he will arrive shortly; he is in class until 12:25
- Hunter Bollman expressed concern with the fee; he doesn't see any way the SGA (Student Government Association) would pass the fee; it would incite a very vocal group in the campus community
- Logan Nichols followed by stating that the students have the perception of being nicked and dined; this would be a huge hit for Transportation Services' image
- Peter Lange asked what if we removed the fee piece. What about the regulations alone?
- Logan reminded the group that if Transportation Services pushes the policy then they are initially going to be held accountable for adding bike racks.
- Hunter asked how the regulations would be enforced. Students will scream if we put all these things in place and then nothing happens or changes
- Rod reminded the group that the faculty and staff are more concerned about safety than the bike parking issue
- Brittany Jones informed the committee she supported charging the vehicle permit customer more – I can now register my bike and so can my co-worker. I would feel good about it and knowing that I would benefit from a safer campus; having someone to enforce rules would also be a benefit to me. It would be good to charge the permit holders now and maybe later transfer the responsibility to the bike permit customers – by then it will be policy to register bikes and it would not be such a dispute
- Kenny Kimball asked the group if they thought it would be valid to charge a vehicle permit customers more to cover bicycles
- Peter told the members the new bicycle racks installed outside of the West Campus Garage cost about \$10,000 and the concrete was already in place. But these racks are not the type of racks that most cyclists prefer
- Logan felt to get support from the students the costs would need to be funded from some other source
- Lallah informed the group that solving this problem was not initiated by Transportation Services. Transportation

Services is getting the brunt of the responsibility for solving the problem. It is a university wide problem that Transportation Services is being forced to address. She gave Rod the task of working out a solution, getting rules and regulations in place for the safety of the students, faculty and staff

- Dr. Kaplan asked, what is the justification for the new rules
- Lallah stated that she was not sure. Anytime you walk across campus people run the risk of harm and they are complaining about it
- Dr. Kaplan stated that the committee needed to detail the justification for the rules: #1 the cost to the university is greater than it would be if there were no bikes on campus and someone has to pay for it. There are multiple options, including a user-related fee. #2 it permits the university to identify malefactors – those who violate the rules. It seems to be #2, but really not #1. Then there is the issue for those with multiple bikes, can the permit be made portable? The issue in #1 has not been communicated very well. Explain what the fee will support and what change it will make on campus
- Hunter asked if there had been any exploration into the university administration subsidizing the program – this group works with a seven figure discretionary budget
- Angie stated that it would certainly make the campus more “green” and could justify the administration funding the program. Then Transportation Services could be responsible for the regulations but not responsible for the funding. Maybe they could also get student groups involved, by helping to build bike racks, etc.
- Brittany recommended making it clearer. Identify that it is a university rule; UPD and TS are only accountable for the enforcement
- Dr. Kaplan stated that procedurally – we needed to separate the operation and the fee. We need to see if there are other parts that we can agree on
- Peter Lange stated that permits would cost around \$4 each: for the sticker, processing and mailing
- Dr. Magill stated the costs for new racks should fall to the entity responsible for the building adjacent to where the new racks are needed/desired
- Rod would like for someone from UPD, John Fisher serves on the Bike Sub Committee, to address the group about their citations, his perception is that UPD really doesn't enforce

because the fines are high, around \$175, and there is no reward – also money from the citations, issued by UPD, does not come back to the university

- Dr. Kaplan stated again that it needs to be addressed in procedural suggestions – two parts – operations/parking and registration
- Dr. Price asked for the committee to take the draft back to their constituents. Separate their comments into these categories:
 1. Operating regulations
 2. Parking regulations
 3. Registration
 4. Highlight the registration benefits – help them to see the value they are receiving.
- Send your break down/comments to Rose and she will send them out to the group
- Dr. Price also requested for a representative from UPD (University Police Department) to attend the next meeting. She would like for UPD to have an awareness campaign about moving violations. This would be a huge education effort.
- Dr. Price also reminded the group to make sure that they/we, the committee, are not missing any of the concerns

3.0 Other Business

4.0 Meeting adjourned

Other Topic(s):

Tasks to be completed;

1. Transportation Services will make a plan for parking for university vehicles, electric vehicles, gators or golf carts
2. Para Transit Rules
 - a. Guest Anne Reber
3. Recommendations from Committee Members on Construction Permit Parking Fees
4. Standard Policy for visitor/client parking spaces
 - a. Some departments pay for spaces, other do not
 - b. If all pay, what should be the rate
5. Visitor Validation Process

**Next Transportation Services Advisory Committee meeting: March 24, 2009 at
11:30 am in the MSC, Room 102**