

ACADEMIC SENATE

Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee

February 11, 2009, Meeting

Members in Attendance: Terrence Allen, Joseph Artiss, Sarah Basset, Veronica Bielat, Brian Edwards, Matthew Hurrell, Nabil Sarhan, Joseph Sawasky, Lothar Spang, Derek Wildman, Russell Yamazaki, Judy Field, Chair

Members Absent with Notice: Lisa Maruca

Members Absent: Ravi Dhar, Daniel Rappolee, Toni Somers, Arun Wakade, Earnestine Young

Guest: Jon Frederick, Director, Parking and Transportation

Mr. Frederick again responded to the concerns about the availability of handicapped parking in Rackham. His staff is monitoring the situation and the handicapped spaces are turning over fairly quickly. This however does not resolve the problem of staff who use this structure and leave it during the day and have problems returning to work. The Rackham structure was built before ADA requirements and there are no elevators in the structure. He said that he could use another 300 spaces to satisfy the demands for parking by the cultural institutions. There are no plans to expand parking in this area.

The next topic was a discussion of the routes and schedules of the shuttle buses. He said that he shared the complaints that we had mentioned in October with the contractor. He has not gone further since he is in the process of writing a new RFP which will have some additional requirements such as the vans being ADA, and greener, perhaps using hybrid technology. He has had an exploratory conversation with NEXT Energy. The shuttle from the medical campus leaves every hour and half-hour and this seems to meet the needs of the riders. On main campus the shuttles run every fifteen minutes but the exact interval is not set. The question was raised whether Google Latitudes could be used to help riders know when a shuttle is expected. The RFP will be asking for information on the timing of the shuttles. Lot 50, in front of Matthei is not included on the shuttle route but the other lots are. The reason behind the shuttles was to increase the use of the outlying parking lots which have cheaper parking rates (\$1.50).

Frederick has been investigating some additional routes that would go to Eight Mile Road or Ann Arbor. He is also looking for ways to work with DOT and MDOT. A possible merger of these two transit systems is being discussed again and there may be more opportunity for collaboration. He is also very interested in the proposed plans for a light rail system on Woodward, this proposal is still a couple years away from being implemented. Developing share ride programs is another effort that is still being studied and additional collaboration with SEMCOG is ongoing. Currently, with the drop in gasoline prices, interest in pushing for these alternative transportation options has decreased.

His office is developing two new sites that will split information currently on the Parking site to one for Transportation matters and one devoted to Parking matters, this should increase the transparency of his office activities.

The question was asked about parking in one of the structures for several days. Frederick said this is possible in Structure 2 if the person is in the Parking Program and the car is appropriately licensed. Detroit Receiving will let you park your car for several days for just a one day parking fee (\$2.50) or you can valet park your car (\$3.50). In WSU lots you pay every time you enter; Detroit Receiving will allow you to come and go during the day for just one fee.

It was brought to Frederick's attention that in Structure I that the stairwell doors are not numbered on either side. He said this will be taken care of immediately. He was also informed of the pavement breaking up in front of Structure IV and that the alleys are narrow. The question was raised could the alleys have yellow lines. Speed is also a problem and could either rumble strips or a little more policing of the area be

done. He added this to his follow-up list. Structure IV has a designated VIP parking section (45 spaces) and the question was who merited these spots. They are designated as premium spaces and users pay \$3.25 per day to park there. At one time these spots were allocated by the Dean of Medicine; in recent years Parking has handled the requests.

One faculty member slipped on the ice on one of the flat lots and is still not fully recovered. The question was asked how these lots are maintained in the winter. There is a contractor who plows them out but does not necessarily get rid of every bit of ice. Frederick was aware of this incident and did not ask a lot of questions when it was finally reported.

If the Biomedical Building gets approval, what consideration is being given to the parking spaces that will be lost in the construction? Two ideas being considered is an extension on Structure IV or building a new structure.

Frederick said that Wednesday is the busiest day for parking with 80% occupancy. In 2007-08 parking made money but the drop in enrollment and the slow shift to online classes is negatively impacting his revenues. He has seen a 10% decrease in revenues, primarily from the day parkers. Obviously he will need to propose an increase to cover his costs but not before fall 2009.

He expressed his regret that Structure V stairwells were covered in snow. This became a problem because the elevators were not working. He discussed this matter with his staff. If any of us experience problems in the parking areas he said call 577-2075, after 4 rings the call will be forwarded to 577-1979 between 7a.m. to 11 p.m.

Some additional information was that approximately 36 vehicles are stolen a year from the parking areas; however they provide assistance for 3-4 lockouts a day. In the winter they also provide help getting cars started. The staff may help with tire changes; this is not a requirement. All costs for these activities are absorbed by his office.

The last parking question was regarding the driveway leading to the parking lot behind Social Work which is in bad shape. Unfortunately this is a city street and if we start to maintain it, it will be our responsibility. He will mention this to the city.

Joe Sawasky said that protocol 802.11x for Wifi networks is being implemented. This should make things much easier for devices like iPhones to authenticate when they use the network. He said that the abrupt demise of RUCKUS last week was a surprise to all universities that were using the service. It was a free service from Merit.

The increased frequency in bomb threats on campus, may be causing unexpected number of students to unsubscribe from the Broadcast Messaging System. This will be investigated.

The roll-out of Wayne Connect email was delayed because of water damage to involved equipment. The current plan is to have C&IT to finish migrating to the system next week. The next units to be migrated to Wayne Connect will be the University Libraries and the Library and Information Science Program. The Medical Campus will likely be the last University group to be connected given the size and complexity of their operation..

At our next meeting we will see the results of the Technology survey.

Next Meeting March 25, 2009

Meeting adjourned 3:00

Approved by the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee

