Minutes of Facilities, Support Services, and Technology Committee meeting, December 6, 2012

Absent with Notice: G. Saydain, J. Withey
Absent: N. George, K. Kumasi, R. MacArthur, B. Madigan, B. Morrow, D. Rappolee,
Guests: Tim Michael, Associate VP and Chief Housing Officer; Jon Frederick, Director of Parking and Transportation Services; Naida Simon, Chair of Student Affairs Committee

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. Mr. Michael provided copies of the Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) 5 year plan of May 1, 2012 with updates of December 1, 2012. He and Mr. Frederick addressed the committee’s questions in the context of the past 2-year plan (2011-12) and the 5 year 2012-2017 Capital Projects and Facility Improvements which were part of the handout. A comparison of recommendations from the Parking Task Force and the current PTS plan were included in the tables. Divergences between the two were discussed at greater length.

Much of what has been accomplished in the last year was based upon recommendations of the Walker parking consultant group. They have initiated annual parking analyses with a report provided (their first year analysis was received in October, 2012 and a pdf of this will be provided to the committee).

Committee members raised the issue that faculty should also be in the loop of consultation as Parking issues are delegated prioritization. It has been recognized by Mr. Michael and Frederick that the impact of parking fees on students needs to be minimized; as a result, 2012-13 student fees were not increased. The budget comparison for projected FY12 came in below expectations because of a decrease of about 1000 students. In spite of this, $0.5 million was accumulated at the end of last year and this past year; this will allow a catch up going forward with fewer students and will allow needed repairs to be done.

FY12-FY15 projects will be accelerated by cash pool borrowing. Parking needs $7.5million from the WSU cash pool to avoid bond issues. This will be paid back in 5 years. The pricing plan through FY15 is higher than the Academic Senate Task Force recommendations; it was pointed out that anyone parking more than 3 times/week will have a cheaper option in prepayment. In three years, parking more than 2 times/week will be cheaper by prepayment. The 2012-2017 structure repairs, technology improvements and surface lot improvements were summarized. Technology improvements will include new gate technology for surface lots and the remote entry at structures. Structure cameras will be upgraded and expanded in 2013 and will include video-based dispatch center. Surface lot improvements include the plan to pave several more gravel lots by 2016. A committee member suggested that the video be two-way at entrances so that the person communicating to dispatch could see the dispatcher; Mr. Michael and Frederick said this might be possible since the cameras which are for security and communication to problem solve are in design phase now.

The real time counts of ‘cars in and out’ has been very helpful to Parking as it increases the number of vehicles that can park by 150-200 cars. Previously staff manually counted capacity. Credit cards are increasingly used (without extra fee for use) and decreased need for armored cars saves $30,000/year. The numbers of available spaces are accessible either by the WSU website of the WSU Smart Phone app.

Geoff Nathan sat in for Joe Sawasky. He brought copies of the FP&M guide to services to the meeting. This is also available online. Geoff reported that some time in the Winter semester, the process for changing passwords over the phone will include everyone setting a second security question. This will be done by going into Pipeline.
The Penn State University Freeh Report recommended that universities have an electronic and paper Records, Retention and Recovery policy, which Wayne State lacks. Geoff has been asked to lead this development process with regular meetings. He will be working with Casey Westerman, the University Archivist and director of the Reuther Library. The committee agreed with Ivan Avrutsky that we need to pursue the issue of how contracts for repairs/moves etc are determined by FP&M. The costs for some services are outrageously and needlessly high. This will be pursued with Lou Romano’s help.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.