

Wayne State University
Academic Senate
Minutes of the Facilities, Support Services, and Technology Committee Wednesday,
January 16, 2008

In attendance: Brian Edwards, James Garbern, Joe Sawasky, Lothar Spang, Derek Wildman, Russell Yamazaki, Marilyn Zimmerman and Judy Field, Chair

Absence with notice: David Cinabro

Absence: Ravi Dhar, Thomas Killion, Daniel Rappolee

Guests: Chief Anthony Holt, Public Safety, and Jon Frederick, Parking

We welcomed Marilyn Zimmerman from Art and Art History as a new member to FSST.

Jon Frederick discussed how the budget cutbacks impacted his operation. He had to reduce the number of part-time students which he used to facilitate parking at the beginning of each semester, the number of full-time in the Parking Office and the number of full-time staff assigned to the parking structures. He has incorporated more split shifts and cut back on over-time. He said he had lost 8 full-time positions over the last several years. The good news he is in the process of hiring 3 new full-time employees.

He went on to provide information regarding the new 24 hour structure that is being built as part of the South Village complex. There will be 930 spaces: 400 will be allotted University Towers, 300 allotted to the residential units and retail, and the remaining spaces will be available for student parking. Once the structure is opened he will need additional personnel to service the structure. He said that this structure will have over a million dollar bond repayment schedule.

All elevators in the structures were upgraded and the elevator for the new structure will be a friction type elevator rather than the hydraulic elevators in the current structures. The friction elevators are easier to maintain in buildings that are subject to extreme temperatures.

A new software package has been ordered and should start being installed by May to automate the parking passes and hang tags. It will also have the capability to provide access to historic records. This will help to compensate for the cuts in personnel.

Most general maintenance has been on hold. His priorities are when funding becomes available is to upgrade Lot 33 and to continue the maintenance upgrade that has been on hold for Parking Structure One.

When asked about a "Full" sign at a structure; he said that anyone who has a hang tag should be able to park.

Another question was raised about the trash cans at the entrance to the parking structures. He said this was part of the new initiative to “Keep Our Campus Clean” campaign. Signs are being put up across campus urging for the proper disposal of litter. The question was raised about carpooling and both Frederick and Holt provided information. The University works closely with SEMCOG to match people to reliable carpools. This information is on our web site. Carpooling is also discussed at the student orientations. It was suggested that a greater awareness of the options available for car pooling should be done. This will be referred to Student Affairs.

Holt discussed how his unit deals with various crime waves. Currently there has been a surge in stealing cars, particularly Jeep models. Last week 11 cars were stolen and 9 broken into. He creates a task force of his people, the Detroit police Department and the Michigan State Police to trap these felons. He said they try very hard not to have a car chase. While they have been successful in catching criminals, each one caught creates 3-4 hours of paperwork.

His unit was not affected by the budget cuts. By the end of March he will be adding 12 additional officers to his staff of 43. These additional officers and the Officer Cadets will allow him to expand the safe walk program which can be used by any student, faculty member or staff member. Now if a person is leaving a building late at night, they can call 7-2222 and informed them so an officer can be alerted and watch for them until they reach safety or their car.

Holt informed us that when they encounter a homeless person on campus they will take them to one of several shelters. After classes are over at night they regularly check the classroom buildings to be sure no homeless people are in the building.

Additional officers have been trained on the use of the defibrillation machine and all cars are now equipped with one. He went on to say that most crimes on campus are crimes of opportunity. By this he meant that if a person sees an unattended laptop computer or purse, it is taken. If people would use more care, there would be fewer opportunities for such crimes. He also said that the law states that concealed weapons can not be carried on campus even if they have a concealed weapon permit. Because of the success of the “Yield to Pedestrian” sign on Canfield near Scott Hall; additional signs have been ordered to be used on Cass and Anthony Wayne. He has scheduled a meeting with Detroit Public Lighting to get the burned out lights replaced.

Joe Sawasky provided the committee with the final results of the 2007-2008 WSU Technology Survey which showed the satisfaction levels by students, faculty, staff and administration. A copy of this report is attached. He then stated that a proposal to create a school/college Technology advisory group composed of both a faculty member and the lead technologist from each unit has been approved. Once it is created, this group will provide input to help improve the satisfaction levels with campus-wide academic technology. Consideration is being given to a new email system and plans to expand wireless access are underway.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07.

Meeting dates for 2007-08. All meetings will be scheduled from 1:30 to 3:00.

- Wednesday February 13
- Wednesday March 26
- Wednesday April 9
- Wednesday May 14 (tentative, in case we have unfinished business)