

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Monday, April 5, 1999

300 Morrill Hall

3:00PM

In these minutes:

Parking & Transportation Issues

Present: Kathleen Peterson, Chair; Jane Canney, Chris Macosko, Ted Labuza, Sabeen Altaf, Jesse Berglund, Hillary Walters

Guests: Mr. Bob Baker, Director of Parking & Transportation Services

Regrets: Nicole Kubista, Brittany Leigh

Absent: Laura Langer, Maren Mahowald, John Romano, Diane Wartchow, David Lenander, Thomas Haakenson, Laura Taken, Jennifer Watts

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

Kathie Peterson, Chair, introduced Mr. Bob Baker, Director of Parking and Transportation Services, to committee members and thanked him for coming to address the list of questions and issues that committee members generated, as well as those generated by the St. Paul Student Center Board of Governors. Mr. Baker noted that the P&TS department is responsible for access to, from, and on the three campuses, including St. Paul and both east and west banks on the Minneapolis campus. He provided members with a general overview of the department and provided the committee with the specific answers to their questions:

1. **What is the status of the proposed plan to enforce uniform parking policies on the Minneapolis & St. Paul campuses?** The plan to enforce parking restrictions on lots on the St. Paul Campus from 10am to 7pm is now in place and a contract parking option at the fairgrounds parking lot in St. Paul has been initiated as well.
2. **How are costs assigned to particular lots and at certain times?** All costs are distributed by type of facility. Rates are not only determined by the costs of development and operations of such facilities, but by University policy and demand. He noted that parking is 100% self-supporting and that transportation receives 1/3 of its funds from parking funds and the rest from central allocation. Any reserves that the department has had were used for expansion, including the 4th Street Ramp, Weisman garage, added spaces in the west bank parking ramp, and the 19th Avenue Ramp.
3. **Please address the parking situation on the St. Paul campus with respect to the surrounding neighborhoods.** Basically, the neighborhoods west of Cleveland are now on a one hour parking restriction from 8-5PM.
4. **How is parking monitored to prevent illegal parking?** Enforcement is conducted on a 24 hour basis. However, enforcement is routine enough to allow non-contract holders to know when parking monitors have completed their patrols, allowing illegal parking with little chance of being caught. One suggestion

was to install gate arms on all lots to keep illegal parkers from entering. Mr. Baker responded that there would be a considerable expense for each arm in the amount of \$60,000.

5. **What are the short-term parking options given the construction on campus?** An additional 700 parking spaces were added to the Buckeye lot, 500 spaces at the Oak Street Ramp, and 300 spaces to the 4th Street Ramp. In addition, there are usually available spaces in the St. Paul Fairgrounds lot and Lot 66 by the University Child Care Center.
 6. **What is the arrangement between Facilities Management and your department concerning snow plowing of University lots?** Facilities Management manages all areas of snow plowing in consultation with Parking & Transportation Services. Facilities Management also has 3 outside contractors that plow whenever 3.5 inches of snow or more accumulate on the ground. Mr. Baker added that approximately \$1/2 million per year is spent on snow plowing.
 7. **Please discuss the recent decision by the City Council to move to single-sided parking on the streets in the Dinkytown neighborhood and the impact it is having on students.** This was an initiative by the Marcy Holmes neighborhood which has unfortunately forced students to park west of 35W, ride their bikes into campus, or park on campus.
 8. **Can you provide data on the number of parking spaces available at the University compared with the average needed on any given day?** Approximately 75,000 students, faculty & staff access the University on a daily basis. It is guessed that half arrive by single occupancy vehicles, and 1/2 by other means (bike, bus, or walk). Mr. Baker figures that each parking spot will be used 2-2.5 times per day. He suggested that although there are a sufficient number of parking spots on campus to accommodate University staff, students, faculty, they are not necessarily where they need to be.
 9. **Please discuss the availability of buses on the weekends and during finals week, including how frequently they run.** Weekend busing runs from 9:20am to 1:20am with a 40 minute interval; busing during finals runs from 7:00am through 9:30pm Monday through Friday. Concern was raised about the communication between Parking & Transportation Services and University Course Scheduling Office about beginning and ending class times. For example, students have had 9:00am finals on Saturday morning, but no way to get to campus because bus service doesn't begin until 9:30am.
 10. **Are there available lots for students to park in on the weekends that do not charge event parking rates?** Yes. All of St. Paul and West Bank are regular rates. Parking and Transportation Services will be recommending soon that the Oak Street Ramp return to the regular rate. In addition, the Art Museum garage will return to the regular rate as well.
 11. **Students would like to see broader and more frequent dissemination of parking information. How might this be accomplished?** Mr. Baker distributed a handout listing 24 ways in which Parking and Transportation Services advertises its services. In fact, it spends \$60,000 each year to distribute this information.
 12. **Do bus drivers feed rider information back to planning offices?** Yes, in fact they're very meticulous about documenting this information. However, bus drivers do not have the capability to call in and request additional bus service at the same moment it is needed.
13. **Is the bus schedule coordinated with the schedule of final exams?** Yes. In fact, the bus schedules during finals are also at the bus stops and posted 2-3 days prior to the service changes.

Concern was raised about safety issues for students, staff, and employees riding the buses, particularly the increased risk to students who need to park far away from the University. Mr. Baker responded that the department has spent millions of dollars on their facilities to improve safety through a variety of means. For example, aside from the campus escort service, for St. Paul students the department has offered: \$23/month night parking, a parking ramp behind the Vo Tech Building, a new pay lot behind the Student Center, and reduced rates.

Mr. Baker reported that Parking & Transportation Services will be requesting \$700,000 in additional funding for busing next year. The University first develops a capital plan, then an operating budget, and then the rate setting process takes place.

Kathie Peterson thanked Mr. Baker for taking the time to meet with the Student Affairs Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

