

STAFF SENATE MEETING
February 16, 2012

Present: Mary Beasley, Brigitte Billeadeaux, Kimberly Blair, Karen Bradley, Melody Bridgeford, Ann Brock, Annette Rhodes, Hugh Busby, Leroy Conway, John Farrell, Brad Frewin, MJ Garrett, Robynn Hopkins, Lisa Justen, Bobby King, Patsy Krech, Lavaire Lockhart, Cynthia Martin, Christopher Ratliff, Angela Robinson, Hermes Rosa, Norma Shelton, Ryan Seidner, Geraldine Taylor, Jennifer Walker, Minghui Wang, Pamela Williams, Jeanette Ballentine

Excused: Teresa Jones, Mary Mansour, Kutanya Niter, Letonia Williams, Virginia Huss, Heather Hampton, Pamela Chambers, Sharon Beasley, Linda Arnold, Shelby Tate, Lofton Wilborn

Unexcused: Richard Bibb, Jeff Story, Ladonnal Curry, Ernestine Harris, Michael Houston

Retired Staff/ Vacated Senator Seats: Patricia Taylor, Alenda Wilson, Ruthie Bassford, Hilary DeLuco,

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Busby.

January's minutes was approved by Senator Jennifer Walker and Senator Robynn Hopkins.

Our guest speaker was Ms. Angela Floyd, Director of Parking Services accompanied by Ms. Edwina Washington, AVP Admin Business Services. Below is the information presented to the Senators;

Please remember that this information is subject to change:

The new bus vendor remains unnamed at the present because they are awaiting final approval from the TBR.

MATA will not be the vendor.

The buses are due to start running sometime in April- no additional parking fees will be added to existing Priority Parking and General Parking rates. There will be no fare to ride the bus. The bus schedule is currently 5 days per week, Monday through Thursday from 7am until 11pm and Fridays from 7am to 5pm. There is no weekend route at this time.

Payment/Maintenance fees for the buses will be deducted from current parking fees to include monies from citations and related parking fees. Persons not currently paying for parking will not be subject to paying any fees related to the buses but they will be able to utilize the bus service at no charge.

The name of the buses will be "The Blue Line." There will be six buses and one spare.

There will be an opportunity to “Charter” the buses to sports events or school-related activities with prior departmental approval for weekend use, possibly weekday. Costs, if any, for Charter service was not mentioned.

The buses will all be newly manufactured, with blue/gray seats and fully functioning air conditioning and heat. GPS trackers will be installed so that students, faculty, and staff, can view current location of the buses and distance from bus stop to bus stop, monitored security cameras, two handicap accessible seats, and bike racks on the front exterior of the buses. Monitors will also be placed in designated buildings in the common areas so that people can see real time where the buses are located to determine how close or far the buses are from that person’s current location or desired bus stop. A connector hub will be located behind the Student Health Center. During the hours of operation, the buses will rally at that location before heading out to various other stops on and around Main Campus and South Campus.

The reason for the shuttle? Ms. Washington said that there was a land-lock issue- an enrollment increase issue in regards to more vehicles being on campus- the university shuttle option was thought of to help alleviate traffic flow with an ancillary goal to assist with police services and their mission to provide a safe environment for pedestrians and commuters to and around campus.

The goal is to reduce and eventually eliminate vehicle traffic to campus- for city commuters, the idea is that they would “Go Green” and either be encouraged to ride their bikes to campus and utilize the shuttles around campus to get around. The buses will operate on diesel fuel, which also makes them capable of using Biodiesel, and will require less fuel to operate at the same rate or better than petrol fuel using vehicles.

There will be a PARK-N-RIDE lot on South Campus to alleviate vehicular traffic as well because there will be bus stops available for rides to and from Main Campus to the Getwell/South Campus location.

The buses will be housed on South Campus- an existing building currently being vacated will be renovated as a Bus Station for the Bus employees to utilize. The parking lot for the buses will be fenced in, the costs for which will be subtracted from current parking fees being collected as all of the other fees.

The employees will be that of the company supplying the buses, they will not be University Employees.

Ms. Washington also apologized for not inviting anyone from the Staff Senate to sit on the board. She said that she would reach out to the senate for any future meetings regarding the shuttle if the committee planned to meet again prior to the Kick Off Date to announce when the shuttles will be running.

Other questions not related to shuttle buses:

Issue #1: There seems to be a problem with people parking their large pick-up trucks in the spaces at the entryways in the garage which lead from one level to another, obstructing the view

of ascending vehicle traffic as well as any pedestrians creating a safety concern for all. A driver would have to re-adjust, re-maneuver their vehicle in such a way as to not damage their personal vehicle or the obstructing truck while at the same time being careful not to hit or injure any pedestrians in the process.

Solution: Ms. Floyd mentioned that she would be staffing the garages in the near future to write citations for those vehicles parked in that manner as well as vehicles straddling the lines to prevent anyone else from parking next to them to help resolve this issue as well as any other parking violations that may be observed by users of the garage. This will apply to both the Deloach garage as well as the Zach Curlin garage.

Issue #2: Someone has been tethering bicycles to the stairwells in the parking garages- it was asked if this was a fire hazard issue

Solution: Ms. Floyd said it is indeed a fire safety issue as well as a hazard for persons using the stairways so she asked that if anyone observes anything like that occurring to please call the parking office and report it or call her directly if they chose to.

Issue #3: Events on campus and visitors taking up spaces in the garage leaving paying staff as well as students to be displaced or competing for available parking. This has occurred on several occasions and with no advance notice sent to staff and students alerting them of the activity beforehand, leading to congested garage lanes entering the garage and confusion.

Solution: Ms. Floyd apologized for anyone inconvenienced during these occasions and she said that she was going to make it where staff that pay to park in the garage can use the Priority parking lot next to it as a alternate parking location whenever these things happen. She said that anyone displaced will not be forced to park in General Parking if they are currently paying for Priority parking through payroll deduction if she help it.

Committee Reports:

Budget- 4,079.00

Legislative – No Report

By-Laws – No Report

Public Relations – No Report

Election – No report

Membership – No Report

ESAC – No Report

Campus Safety & Security – Environmental Health & Safety has created a new form for anyone involved in or witnessing a “near miss” to report it so that they can check into the reason why and possible solutions. The “near miss” could be anything from materials handling to near accidents, to near car accidents, to whatever. Senator Farrell invited everyone to go the website to find out more and view the form.

Facilities & Services – No Report

Fee Refunds & Appeals – Reviewed 3 appeals

1st Year Experience – No Report

Food Services/Dining – No Report

Public Records & Forms – No Report

Space Planning – No Report

Traffic & Parking – No Report

Policy & Review – No Report

Sustainability – No Report

New Business

Staff Appreciation Day- Ideas, Activities, Door Prizes, Committees, Senator Volunteers! Need to meet to discuss Staff Appreciation Day with the volunteers to formulate committees and get this ball rolling!

Online Class Fees- Lisa Justen (RODP-\$100.00 per hour, totaling \$300.00 additional dollars due outside of the current fees paid by PC-191 and Staff Scholarship which would have to be paid by the staff person themselves.)

Updating the Senator Photo- To be ready by the next meeting- former Senator Bill Harbin volunteered his services and expressed an interest in joining the Staff Senate again.

Absentee Senators and Vacant Senator Slots, Senator Involvement/Commitment- we will discuss at the next meeting when President Huss is present to provide guidance and address the group.

Questions/Concerns- Senators still waiting on tee shirts- sized Medium and XXL.

Meeting was adjourned by Vice President Busby.