

COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS  
December 2, 2010

**Present:** Sandy Bass, Sara Brickman, Michael Cardman, Dustin Dorph (Designee for Tyler Campbell), Rick Ferraro, Caroline Gimenez, Meg Gough, Bo Hart, Lauren Heming (Designee for Stacey Pannell), Frank Hernandez, Monica Hunter, Rawlin Jefferson (Designee for Pamella Palmer), Jessie Kane, Greer Kelly, Nathan Lavinka, Mary Ann Lewis, Ana LoMascolo, Michelle McLeese, Jonathan Moore, Kelley McKew (for Matt Parker), Alex Walker (for Charles Petty), David Ramras, Joseph Seaton, Robert Sebek, Frank Shushok, Guy Sims, Ed Spencer, Shyrah Thomas, Leighton Vila

**Absent:** Parisa Ahmadi (Designee for Lubna Chowdhury), Tom Brown, Deepu George, Monika Gibson, Eric Hodges, Brad Klein, Shane McCarty, Nate Navasca (Designee for Richmond Hwang), Matt Joe Tran (Designee for Dani Bernabe)

**Guests:** Steve Mouras, Bo Frazier

**I. Call to Order**

Nathan Lavinka, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**II. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion was made to adopt agenda. The motion was seconded and the agenda was approved.

**III. Welcome and Chair Update (s)**

Mr. Lavinka welcomed the group to the meeting and gave the following update:  
CEOD

- Dr. Sims reported that the focus of the “holiday letter” for this year was changed to focus more on the Principles of Community, the idea of being aware and open to the variety of the way people celebrate during this time of year. The letter has been passed on to Dr. Lewis in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and for next year, instead of a letter focusing on holidays, there will be a letter that focuses on the entire year and holidays that need to be observed.
- The Diversity Summit for 2011 will be held in April.

**IV. Guest Speakers/Presenters**

- A. Steve Mouras, Director of Transportation and Campus Services, Virginia Tech Parking – Mr. Mouras introduced Mr. Bo Frazier, Assistant Manager, and led a discussion regarding VT Parking Services.

A handout was distributed listing peer universities and their parking permit rates for 2010-11 to show how we measure up to our peers in the area of cost of parking.

- Some schools use a tiered system based on class or depending on how many parking lots you wish to park in.
- VT is noticeably on the low side in comparison with most schools. Low priced schools do not have parking garages.
- The garage that was most recently built here at Virginia Tech cost annually \$1.7 million (the mortgage payment). This does not include maintenance.
- VT made a conscious decision many years ago to take advantage of open property adjacent to campus. We are fortunate not to be very confined as far as land space goes. In order to keep prices low, we waited as long as possible to build the garage.
- In response to a question, Mr. Mouras noted that there is 10% interval between cost of faculty/staff and students. As the cost of parking goes up, the number of permits goes down. The overall cost is based upon total expenses.
- SOV (Single Operated Vehicle) is the least efficient means of transporting people. BB & W permits are available for \$15 (per semester) for faculty, staff, and students who prefer to bus, bike, or walk to campus.
- 75% of parking tickets are from students, but parking tickets have declined due to fewer cars on campus and managing behavior. Parking tickets are not about generating revenue, but about curbing behavior
- Faculty and staff have additional capacity in some of the lots because they are contractually obligated to be at work at a certain time and tardiness could result in termination of employment. For commuter/graduate students, on a regular day not all of the spaces fill up. (200 empty commuter/grad spaces any time of the day are located within 15 minutes adjacent to the academic buildings). It was noted that many graduate students have a similar contractual agreement that could result in termination. Mr. Mouras suggested that if there is a need for enhanced GA/TA parking, the Graduate School needs to look into this noting a demonstrated need that these students should have the same privileges as faculty and staff.

Also a part of the handout distributed was information on the 2010-11 Budget for Parking Services (projected numbers developed at the start of the year).

- Primary revenue sources are parking permits and parking fines.
- There are three major types of expenses: Variable, irreducible, and maintenance.
- Total projected revenue and expenses for 2010-11:

Total Revenue	\$4,375,000
(permits, fines)	

Variable Expenses \$1,765,000  
(personnel costs, operating expenses)

Irreducible Expenses \$1,634,000  
(utilities, administrative charges, debt service)

Maintenance Reserve Projects \$349,000

Total Base Expenses \$3,748,000

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> garage will be built on Turner St. where Sycamore Deli was located, Which will result in an increase in permit costs
- Parking permits do not fall under the University Governance system. The BOV approves or disapproves increases.
- Possibility of faculty/staff permits being charged proportionally based on their salary is a viable option and is a policy call that the University will make.
- Athletics is responsible for trash left in parking lots after game day. Otherwise, on a day-to-day basing, Parking Services is responsible.
- Last year we had 18,000 permitted vehicles. This number has declined three years in a row.
- Parking is managed from 7:00 a.m. in the morning until 5:00 p.m. However, Monday thru Friday, the Drillfield area is reserved for faculty, staff, and graduate students until 8:00 p.m.
- Virginia Tech is the only University among our peer institutions that does not charge visitors for parking. In maintaining an open and welcoming environment based on the isolation of our campus it is much friendlier not to charge visitors.
- In response to a concern that visitors should have to pay, Dr. Spencer noted that if the Commission feels that there should be a charge, not everything that goes through the Commission has to go through the governance system. The Commission could choose to pass a resolution/recommendation to the University administration on any issue, including parking.
- There is a plan in place for a remote lot for individuals to be bused onto campus that would be located adjacent to a transit route (2015). Part of this system will be funded by the system currently in place.
- Fall 2011 budget includes an item to make the cost for resident students higher because their cars are parked for longer periods of time.
- Dr. Shushok noted that a parking charge for visitors sends an unwelcoming message to visitors which centers around the perception of Virginia Tech and how we treat visitors.

- In regards to prorating parking fees for employees based on salary, Mr. Mouras noted that this idea is sometimes more intrusive into employees and what their salaries are at a wider knowledge base. Salary is an extremely sensitive issue and there is reluctance of some to have that information out there. It was noted however, that salary information is already available to the public.
- Dr. Shushok raised a concern about service vehicles driving on sidewalks. He has encouraged his dining and housing staff not to drive on sidewalks if at all possible. Mr. Mouras responded that in the planning, design and layout of the campus, one decision was to create the quadrangle type configuration where buildings would be clustered over an open courtyard and to situate them with green space around them, without service access roads to get back to those areas. This has resulted in major landlocked areas where service vehicles have no other ways to get access. A request has been made to have this type of access minimized.
- In response to a question about technology to monitor open spaces in parking lots, Mr. Mouras responded that this type of technology is very expensive and would result in higher permit costs.
- Areas where Parking Services does offer assistance is with car jumps, unlocking vehicles, and other things along those lines. They also do work setting up and taking down lots for special events.
- Mr. Hart reported that on Tuesday night they had a good Transportation Forum. There were good questions raised and there was much concern about the parking at McComas because of Schiffert Health Center and the McComas expansion. They also talked to Rebecca Martin with the Blacksburg Transit about the BT/VT Relationship in regards to the VT Tracker system and ways to make improvements. There will be a follow-up focus group meeting in February.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. Michelle McLeese, GSA President, CT Issue Discussion**

Ms. McLeese reported that the Subcommittee has met a few times and is currently working on findings and recommendations to submit at the next meeting. She has also been in communication with Peter Velz, CT Editor, but most of the work has been done by the subcommittee. They are also working with a professor in Sociology on the survey design.

## **VI. New Business**

There was no new business for discussion.

## VII. Announcements

- Dr. Spencer announced that he is interested in getting human interest stories about students to use in the weekly student e-mail and to use on the DSA webpage. He encouraged Commission members, as they are aware of stories about a person or themselves, to send them to Kimberle Badinelli ([badinell@vt.edu](mailto:badinell@vt.edu)) so that we can get someone from her staff assigned to do a write up.
- Dr. Spencer announced that the application process for the BOV Student Representatives will begin in the early part of spring semester and the deadline for submitting applications will be Friday, February. 11, 2011. Publicity will be out the first week of classes.
- Ms. Hunter announced that the budgets for the 2011-2012 academic year are due on Jan 28 , at 5:00 p.m.
- The Undergrad Man and Woman of the Year applications are on line. Seniors with at least a 3.3 GPA are eligible to apply.
- Ms. McLeese announced that Hokie Day at the General Assembly will be on January 27.
- Ms. Brickman announced that this is Aids Awareness Week.
- The Holiday Parade is tomorrow, December 3, 7:00 p.m., downtown Blacksburg.
- The next CSA meeting will be on February 3, 2011.
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VIII. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Rhonda M. Rogers

Recording Secretary