

Transportation and Parking Committee Minutes

February 18, 2009

Members attending:

Anne Zajac, chair
Steve Mouras, Ex of TCS
Richard McCoy, Parking
John Jelesko, PPWS
Rick Johnson, Housing and Dining
Spencer Riddile, Graduate Student
Pat Rodgers, CUS (IT)
Doug Nelson, ME Faculty/Faculty Senate
Tom Wortalik, Staff
Cynthia Strader, Staff

Meeting was called to order by Anne Zajac at 4pm in Room 230A Student Services building.

The Minutes from December 9, 2009 were approved without corrections.

Discussion of Resident Parking Issue

Rick Johnson was asked his opinion:

- Shaped by what he hear from students – students opposed to freshmen not having a car, especially on this campus
 - They want access to places off campus (i.e. outdoors)
 - They want access to DC, Richmond, etc.

Anne had asked student advisory to the question

- No Freshmen cars is a non-starter

RJ was asked how it would impact students choosing to attend VT

- Could you quantify that (i.e. survey)

Exceptions for health related reasons

Shuttle to provide transportation

- Other schools (Iowa) do not provide a shuttle continuously to storage lot

Steve Mouras asked Rick Johnson his druthers regarding function of house and dining

- Would upperclassmen flee to off campus housing
- RJ hasn't really looked at how this would affect H&D

Students complain about the cage

- Too dark and too far away

Anne says students she talked with like off-site storage idea although concerned about transportation to get there

9000 undergraduates – there are not 9000 parking spaces

In the past, Virginia Tech did not allow freshmen to have a car

PSU and JMU do not allow freshmen to have cars

Steve Mouras – There are currently two regional bus services

1. Smartway – airport
2. Home Ride – tidewater, Charlottesville, Richmond, Harrisonburg and NOVA

This initiative caused by people worried about paying more for parking

- Typical solution offered by people is the no car for freshmen rule

Steve Mouras addressing GSA

- Upperclassmen said instead of parking garage why not implement Freshmen rule

This committee is charged with recommending whether to make any change to the current policy.

- We need input from the broad range of constituents on campus

SM – Any of the options would work, but what is the choice for the best interest of the University. The issue is more about how we want our University to function.

RJ was asked whether it would impact occupancy of dorms

- Dorms must be fully occupied to pay for building
- Equivalent or more expensive to live off campus
- Apartments market by promising convenient parking with rent
 - Also single room apartments, which aren't available on campus

1/3 of freshmen have a car

SM recently wrote the bike policy

- Bikes may be stored in room with permission of roommate, dept. head

Resident parking is a much less efficient use of a parking space because it is filled continuously vs. commuter parking, which rotates

Revenue from parking during sporting events goes to athletic department not transportation and parking (last discussed in 1998)

- About \$12,000 a year

Surveying students would be a good idea

- Talk with representatives
- Also need to talk to admissions
- Also need to talk to graduate students
- This committee needs to gather opinions/perspectives