

Monthly TPC Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024 | Meeting called to order by A.J. Prussin

In Attendance

A.J. Prussin, Carrie Cox, Diane Agud, Lydia Qualls, Nick Quint, LaTawnya Burlison, Kayla Dean, April Williams, Pam Tate, Brock Burroughs, Carrie Mayer, Christina Winkeler, Jonathan Bradley and Alan Munshower

Guests-Cindy Smith, Martha Ann Bell, Robin Panneton, Jamie Edgin, Melanie Darden, Mike Madigan, Robin Queen, Roseanne Foti, Brenda Davy and Stella Volpe.

New Business

Q.-Evaluation of departmental leased spaces.

- Carrie Cox opened the discussion with a brief presentation on why departmental leased spaces are being evaluated. There are over 14,000 parking spaces on campus. VT has a tiered system, so FS can park in student spaces. Carrie suggested people refer to the Campus Master Plan as it provides good information regarding parking changes that will eventually take place on campus. Parking Services is continually evaluating spaces every day around campus, how they're being used, how they are designated and how they're being utilized. It is critical that Parking Services best accommodates all users on campus. FS are the group that is most impacted by the reduction of space options near their buildings. The reality is we have lost spaces in close proximity to our key academic district. Due to parking challenges (specifically loss of spaces due to construction) future departmental leased spaces will not be added. Currently, Parking Services is gathering information from stakeholders and then will make tough decisions to support the entire VT community. One option is VT may raise rates for leased spaces. Addition options for leased spaces is to reserve spaces on a need basis or pay as you use, dashboard signage for research participants, and use golf carts/states vehicles to transport visitor from other lots. There is a big difference between research spaces and spaces for vendor or state vehicles. (Carrie's Presentation is attached to minutes).
- AJ Prussin opened the meeting up for discussion by stakeholders.
- Robin Queen (BEAM) explained that her space on campus, which was designed for the Granada Lab, is completely for research participants. Some of the participants are older adults and/or children and having to transport them is not feasible. They are happy to do whatever Parking Services needs to help manage their space. Not having the space would have a massive impact on funded research projects and their ability to do the research they do.
- Jamie Edgin (Chair of Psychology) stated that they have a leased space for research outside of Williams Hall. It is used daily, sometime 4 times a day. They cannot lose this space due to the type of research their department does.
- Carrie Cox stated that the leased space outside of Williams Hall is in a 2hr lot and it is heavily used by Burruss Hall and visitors on campus. One of the challenges in that lot is VT will be losing the parking behind Burruss Hall, due to the Mitchell Hall project.

- Cindy Smith (Associate Department Head HDFS) explained that if they are seeing school age children, their spot will not be used as much during the day. She also explained that golf carts are not feasible for their department and research. Reserving a spot for a day will not work for young children or older adults if we have to reschedule, which happens regularly. Filling out departmental visitor permits will not work, because of changing times and dates. HDFS stated that they have already had to pay for the space and the signage. Importantly, they have projects that require rapid data collection, and need to have a spot that is easy for families to park in so that they can easily recruit participants.
- Stella Volpe (HNFE) has 7 NIH grants with 5 different studies going on. Brenda Davy (HNFE) added that some of their testing starts as early as 6am and participants have to be fasting and they do not want them exercising before the tests (e.g. walking from a parking spot.)
- Roseanne Foti is concerned about vendor and construction parking on campus and that the leased spaces are for research and should not be thought of as regular parking spaces.
- Carrie Cox said VT is working with BT to have a bus route at chicken Hill starting at 7am in the fall. Additionally, there are on-going discussions with contractors and vendors exploring alternative parking arrangements.
- Melanie Darden stated that the Computer Science leased space is for their state vehicle. She explained that if they had to park randomly around campus it would take away the efficiency of using the state vehicle and the needs for their department, department head, etc.
- Robin Panneton asked that if the departments are able to keep the leased spaces could Parking Services issue an announcement to the campus that it has been vetted and these spots are essential for ongoing research activity. Carrie Cox said she would talk to their communication director.
- Mike Madigan (ISE) stated that he agrees with a lot that has been said by the other departments. He stated that the visitor permits wouldn't work, as research participants would still need to find a space and that could turn participants away.

Q.- Carpool spaces on campus

- Carrie Cox explained that they have completed a review of peer institutions and VT is an outlier with having specific dedicated carpool spaces. VT is also seeing misuse of the spaces and empty carpool spaces that could be used by another user. VT would still commit to keep the cost down for a carpool permit and the free daily permits. There are probably 40 to 50 carpool spaces on campus.
- Jonathan Bradley can never find a carpool space. He was questioning if VT actually has statistics about carpool space usage.
- LaTawnya Bureson stated that she parks in a carpool space every day, but gets to work at about 7am.
- AJ Prussin asked to table the discussion regarding carpool space to the TPC meeting in March.

Q.-Policy 5005

- Alan Munshower discussed Policy 5005. It addresses battery powered personal transportation devices. There was talk around campus about how housing will begin to enforce this policy. He believes this policy is centered around the potential fire issues. He is concerned that individuals remove the battery and bring into buildings for safety and security reasons.
- Carrie Cox explained there was a fire from a battery and that's where this policy originated from. We will enforce this policy on campus, due to the safety issue. There has been conversations about storage for scooters, bikes and skateboards on campus. If anyone has any ideas, bring them up at the meeting in March.
- Nick Quint said VT will be constructing a secure long-term storage area for bikes, scooters and other types of transportation devices. These options are sometimes called bike cages. An individual will have to use their ID for access. There will be some electrical outlets for charging devices. We are hoping to have this open by summer 2024. Nick also wants people to know that there is an exemption form for policy 5005. If you email VPABS@vt.edu they will send you the form.

Next Meeting

March 12, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., Zoom