

Transportation & Parking Committee (TPC)

November 9, 2021 | 1:00 PM | via Zoom

In attendance: Diane Agud, Paul Avery, Jeri Baker, Kirk Felton, Sandra Gabbert, Kristin Link, Eric Martin, James McClain, Jenny McCoy, Haley Michel, Polly Middleton, Nick Quint, Jaden Ringley

Excused: Hunter Buley, Pam Tate

1. Welcome and introductions
 - a. Jeri Baker called the meeting to order and asked attendees to introduce themselves. It was the first meeting for Paul Avery, Professor of Political Science, who represents the Faculty Senate.
2. Nomination and election of Chair/Vice Chair, FY22
 - a. Jeri nominated Polly Middleton and Jenny McCoy as co-chairs of the TPC. The motion was seconded by XXX and approved unanimously. Polly and Jenny will take the lead in running the meetings and setting the agenda.
3. Updated roster
 - a. Jeri had shared the most recent TPC roster and will update the document with the new chair information. The committee is now fully seated.
4. Approved minutes from 10/12/2021
 - a. Jeri had sent the minutes of the October meeting via the Google Groups site. She provided a brief explanation of how the minutes are distributed and approved and noted that all TPC members have access and authorization to use the site.
5. Update on the ADA Member resolution
 - a. The Staff Senate had expressed concerns about how to choose a TPC member from either the Office of Equity and Accessibility or the Disability Alliance Caucus. Jeri clarified the difference between the groups (the former ensures compliance with the ADA; the latter are the end users that are affected by regulations and policies). The current draft resolution being sent forward to the Commission on University Support includes a member from each group.
6. Discussion of remaining schedule of meetings
 - a. Jeri stated that she is still working with the budget office and will submit the final budget in November. She anticipates that the topic will be ready to discuss during the January TPC meeting.
 - b. The TPC does not usually meet in December; members chose to cancel the December 2021 meeting as well. The January meeting will take place as scheduled on January 11 at 1 PM. At that time members' schedules will be reviewed to see if meeting days/times need adjustment for the spring semester. The committee will continue to meet via Zoom as it offers more flexibility for attendees.
7. Member topics for discussion

Q: How are game day parking fees determined?

A: Athletics rents on-campus parking from Parking Services at \$7/space, which aligns with current parking rates of \$6/day with a \$1 premium added. Parking Services staffs all game day parking not used by Athletics, and generates additional revenue by renting spaces for RV parking and parking at Moss Arts Center and non-revenue generating sporting events. The rate charged to Athletics has gradually been increasing and will eventually become \$10/space, which is half of what they charge users. The proceeds generated by Athletics are used to fund non-revenue generating sports programs.

Q. How can faculty and staff parking on game days for work-related needs?

A: Parking Services can work with anyone needing access to spaces that are not convenient to the public lots, which valid permit holders can also use.

Q: How are parking prices determined for faculty, staff, and students?

A: Rates are set based upon how customers use the space with the cost correlating to the convenience. Resident students are charged the highest rate because their vehicles are on campus the most. Parking Services promotes alternative ways to get to campus and offers permits at different price points to make commuting affordable. Additionally, for all employees earning less than \$35,000, a \$500 yearly stipend is provided with no stipulations as to how it is used.

Q: There have been many complaints about parking on the sidewalk near Lavery Hall.

A: This seems to be an issue during class change and when students are picking up food. Several 15 minutes “grab and go” spaces have been created and enforcement in this area at peak times will be increased.

Q: How can Parking Services work with HR to inform employees about less expensive transportation options, particularly since Blacksburg Transit (BT) does not operate at the time many people have to be at work?

A: BT had received funding to begin running earlier in the day but survey respondents indicated they did not want to take the bus. It is a challenge to convince residents of rural areas to use public transportation. Jeri welcomes the opportunity to speak to groups and is willing to work with newcomers to increase awareness of different programs.

Jenny McCoy suggested the TPC roster available to the public be reformatted to have the chairs listed first to diffuse questions and comments directed to TPC members in a more equitable manner.

There were no other items to discuss. A motion was made by Jenny McCoy, seconded by Diane Agud, and approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 1:42.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11 at 1:00 PM via Zoom.