

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Alloway, Bolin, Bradford, Fech, Flowers, Hachtmann, LaCost, Ledder, Lindquist, Moeller, Prochaska Cue, Rapkin

Absent: Zimmers

Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Location: Faculty Senate Office, 420 University Terrace

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Executive Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

1.0 Call to Order

Bradford called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2.0 Dan Carpenter, Director, Parking and Transportation Services and Milford Hanna, Chair, Parking Advisory Committee

Bradford stated that he has received some questions regarding parking on campus. One of them concerns employees who have several cars registered on a permit but whose spouse may occasionally come to campus to do work for a committee associated with the university. The spouse is not allowed to park on campus but other committee members with unregistered cars are allowed to park using guest permits.

Carpenter stated that he is aware of the problem and that when it comes to his attention he is very flexible in dealing with the ticket. He stated that as long as he can document that it is not an employee trying to use the permit in two different places he will void the ticket. He pointed out that this is an infrequent problem.

Bradford stated that he cannot understand why someone would want to use a permit in two different places. Hanna pointed out that an employee could let a son or daughter use the permit. Carpenter stated that there are a lot of students who share a permit and some will try to park in a visitors spot. He stated that there has been this kind of abuse of the permits over the years. He noted that one of the more frequent problems is people forgetting their permit.

Carpenter stated that his office is getting access to SIS+ and they will be able to check on students using permits from other campuses. Bradford asked if this is legitimate. Carpenter stated that it is as long as his office can verify that the permit is not being used by an employee.

Bradford asked about parking for adjunct professors. Carpenter stated that they should buy a permit.

Bradford asked what the prognosis is for next year. Carpenter stated that there is some good news and some bad news. He stated that the campus is still dealing with the Antelope Valley Project (AVP) which will displace 1700 parking spaces just on city campus alone. He noted that through negotiations the university has been able to get replacement money for these lost spaces but only for the cost of a surface space, not a garage space rate. He pointed out that the campus will only be replacing half of the lost spaces. He stated that parking next to the Beadle Center will be impacted in two years and another 860 spaces will be cut in the next three years. He stated that it is unfortunate that those on east campus have to help absorb the cost of replacing these lost spaces. Bradford pointed out that parking is eventually going to be a problem on east campus as well. Carpenter agreed stating that this will be a result of all of the facilities that are being built on east campus.

Carpenter stated that the Parking Advisory Committee will be kept updated as new information is available regarding parking. He noted that he was not anticipating getting replacement parking money for the area where the Culture Center will be built but there will be replacement money.

Carpenter stated that he has been reviewing the permanent loss of 860 spaces. He noted that the Chancellor and other administrators have been very supportive on providing replacement funds for lost spaces and not putting the burden on the permit holders. He stated that any new facility that replaces parking on campus will be charged replacement fees.

Carpenter stated that the administration may try to find funding to replace some of the parking spaces that will be lost due to AVP. He noted that this funding may be in the form of a donation but that will not be decided until the project is slated to begin.

Griffin stated that the cost of parking permits, \$492 a year, is becoming prohibitive for lower paid employees. She pointed out that the percentage of increase this year for a parking permit was higher than what some people received as an increase. Fech noted that with expected increases in health care costs there will be some employees who will be making less money than before the salary increase. Carpenter stated that he realizes this is a difficult situation.

Moeller asked how UNL compared to our peer institutions in terms of parking permit costs. Carpenter reported that we are a little above the average. Moeller stated that she has a reserved permit which she is paying \$978 annually. She stated that she has inquired at other institutions where she has spoken how much they pay for parking and most of them are paying far less even though the institutions have even less space for parking and are located in an area of higher population density. Carpenter stated that consideration has to be taken for construction.

Carpenter stated that the question is what level of service is the University going to provide. He pointed out that students will be bringing their cars to campus regardless of

whether they can park on campus or not. He stated that if we do not maintain our demand for parking then it becomes an enforcement issue.

Moeller asked about the feasibility of having a sliding scale. Carpenter stated that he is going to introduce to the Parking Advisory Committee the idea of investigating again the possibility of permit cost being based on salary. He stated that he has received pay scale information from Human Resources. Ledder suggested that a sliding scale would be fine as long as it is applied to people across the board from Bill Callahan on down the line.

Carpenter stated that in looking into the feasibility of a sliding scale for permit fees they will need to see whether it should be for reserved or non-reserved spaces. He pointed out that there are approximately 5200 employees on campus and 3300 request parking permits. He noted that not many institutions use a sliding scale for the cost of parking permits.

Alloway asked if there are any proposed changes to enforcing of parking at night. Carpenter stated night enforcement is difficult. He noted that university enforcement stops at 9 p.m. but most problems in the lot do not occur until 1 a.m. or thereafter. He pointed out that the problems that occur at this time are actually more of a police issue rather than a parking issue because they involve drinking on campus and public urination. He reported that there are no solutions for the problems that occur in the lots late at night.

Alloway asked if people should call the campus police if there are problems after 9:00. Carpenter stated that the UNL police should be contacted. He stated that closing the lot next to Andersen Hall is not a possibility because of all of the activity associated with the college that takes place in the building in the evenings.

Prochaska Cue stated that the stench in the loop parking lot just east of the stadium after the USC game was awful. Carpenter stated that he wrote a letter to the campus police about the problems with public urination and drinking in association with the football games. He noted that the police were very present for this past weekend's football game. He pointed out that there are times when there is a lot of pressure for not having the police enforce the parking lots. He stated that teams of police used to go through the lots to check for violations.

Moeller asked if drinking on campus is prohibited. Carpenter stated that there is a state statute against it and there are signs in the booster lots indicating this as well. He noted that the university is aware there is drinking going on but it is difficult to enforce it everywhere. He noted that the bad thing is that with the way people park and tail gate it is creating public safety issues because emergency vehicles cannot get through when needed.

Bradford asked if the Athletics department provides some funds to help with the clean up after the games. Carpenter stated that it does. He noted that Landscape Services does a great job of cleaning up but they do bill the Athletics department for it.

Fech pointed out that there does not seem to be as much of an issue with problems of clean up after games at Iowa State. Perhaps this is because they are allowed to drink on campus and the university owns a number of tents that are put up. The tents are sponsored by people where alcohol and food is provided. He stated that the people seem to be more responsible and the partying is taken out of the parking lots.

Carpenter stated that the Parking Advisory Committee will be looking at ways to possibly change the fee structure but he does not know how successful it will be. Ledder stated that he thinks it is quite reasonable to charge parking fees based on someone's salary. He stated that if people get paid more they should pay more for parking. Bradford stated that the space costs the same no matter who's parking in it. Griffin pointed out that the percentage of a lower employee's salary used to pay for parking is much higher than for someone who has a high salary.

Hanna stated that the only real solution is to get state support for parking. He pointed out that if the parking fees for the staff are significantly lower it will force those paying a higher amount to park off campus resulting in a loss of income.

Lindquist asked why parking replacement wasn't an original part of the Antelope Valley Project. Carpenter stated that the campus did get some replacement money but he believes most of it is federal money which has significant regulations on it.

Moeller noted that garage parking on campus is \$552 annually. She asked how this compares with the city garages. Carpenter stated that garage parking downtown is \$60 a month.

Prochaska Cue asked if students pay the same price as faculty and staff. Carpenter stated that the students pay less, with a regular faculty/staff permit costing \$492 a year; for students the same equivalent permit is \$420 a year. Prochaska Cue asked why students aren't paying the same amount as faculty and staff. Carpenter stated that this is a good question, especially for students who are residents and park their car for 24 hours a day for numerous days. He noted that with non-resident students he can sell the same space three or four times because there is continual turnover of cars coming and going. He stated he would like to go after the spots that are being used by departments with state vehicles and with reserved spots in order to try and generate some more revenue.

Alloway noted that there are often a number of state cars parked in the 17th & R Street garage. He asked who the cars belong to. Carpenter stated that they are used by the Admissions Office and a deal was worked out by the previous director for these vehicles to be housed in the garage.

Carpenter stated that parking for state vehicles is very different on city campus. He noted that state vehicles are all over the campus while on east campus they are parking in one area. He stated that Parking Services is going to look at redefining some issues and departments with state vehicles may have to register those cars.

Alloway asked what the Senate can do to ease problems for Parking Services. Carpenter stated that if anyone has questions they should email him (dcarpenter2@unl.edu). He noted that the Parking Services web page has a lot more information on it now.

Rapkin noted that there is an annual discourse about parking problems but bike riders are not looked at as a possibility as a solution to some of the problems. Carpenter pointed out that the public transit system is a problem here. Ledder noted that bus service ending at 6 p.m. creates a problem for many people.

Alloway asked if Parking Services was approached about the potential changes in the bus routes. He noted that there appears to be a reduction in the services. Carpenter stated that his office was contacted. He reported that Associate VC Phelps sits on the advisory committee for the bus system. He stated that the amount of riders was considered when they looked at possible reductions and how best they could use the money from any savings.

Alloway stated that people were most concerned with the changes in the downtown routes. Ledder pointed out that most routes go through downtown now instead of going around the downtown area.

Griffin asked how the campus bus transportation system was functioning. Carpenter stated that there has been a significant decrease in the transit system in part because Parking Services has been able to accommodate more people on campus. He noted that the perimeter lots are not being used as much and that is what is causing the drop off in use of the buses. Griffin asked if there have been any changes with the buses because of the drop off in use. Carpenter stated that there have been some changes but people still want service within 10 minutes or they will stop using the buses.

Bradford asked what the calendar is for next year in terms of changes and what is the process. Carpenter reported that the Parking Advisory Committee makes recommendations to VC Jackson and things are usually dealt with when they arise. He stated that one of the changes last year is that emeriti professors no longer get free permits although the current retirees were grandfathered into the plan. Bradford stated that it would be good for the Senate Executive Committee to know about any recommendations when they are first made. Hanna stated that this would be easy to do.

Alloway asked what the current policy is for clearing lots when it snows and who gets notified to inform the campus. Carpenter stated that faculty and staff lots are the first ones to be cleared. He noted that Landscape Services have about 80 people working to clear the lots when it snows.

3.0 Announcements

Moeller read an editorial from the Lincoln Journal Star that stresses that education should be of greater importance and receive greater support than athletics.

Bradford reported that another institution is having the same problems with Homeland Security that Dr. Ari encountered with getting a visa for a new faculty hire.

4.0 Approval of 9/19/07 Minutes

The minutes were approved as amended.

5.0 Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Topics of Discussion for President Milliken

Bradford stated that he will be meeting with President Milliken next week and asked if there were any topics that people wanted him to specifically address with the President. Bradford stated that he plans on bringing up the structure of the health care committee. He is going to propose that the organizations that have representation on the University-wide Benefits Committee such as UNOPA, UAAD, and the Faculty Senate get to select who they want as their representative rather than the Chancellor making the appointment.

6.2 ACE Proposals 3 and 4

Bradford stated that he has a question about why a temporary committee is being put into place to review and approve the initial set of ACE certified courses. Ledder stated that it is because of the workload that the temporary committee will have. He noted that there may be some kind of compensation given to these faculty members such as having a course off during the time the committee is active.

Bradford stated that another concern he has is with the timeline. He stated that he does not think the transitional issues have been dealt with. He noted that students entering in 2009 will be expected to meet the outcomes but those entering in 2008 do not. Does this mean that the ES/IS program will continue? Ledder stated that either the students will be grandfathered in or some kind of waiver will need to be made. He pointed out that the rules that you graduate under are the ones that were in place when you entered, unless you choose to follow the new rules.

Bradford noted there were a lot of typographical mistakes in Proposal 4. Ledder stated that this proposal is a lot more detailed than the previous draft. Bradford agreed and pointed out that it was also better organized.

Ledder stated that unanimous voting may create difficulties but there may be a way to deal with it. He noted that if there is a negative vote then the person who voted negatively would have to make a written reply as to why. He suggested that instead of completely turning a course down it should be tabled because it might simply need more explanation. Bradford pointed out that someone on the committee could always move for reconsideration if there is a negative vote. Ledder stated that this is true but it would be nice to see this automatically done. He stated that he would like to see it go further to give the department the opportunity to reply so that they do not have to go through the whole procedure at some other time.

Alloway asked who would write the explanation if a course is denied. Ledder stated that if the committee had to meet in order to vote then the person with the objection could explain why. Rapkin pointed out that the initial vote becomes a prelude for political wrangling. Ledder stated that unanimous voting depends on people appreciating that these courses are the minimum standard for all students, and students graduating from particular colleges must meet the college's requirements as well.

Moeller asked how the people will be appointed to the committee. Ledder stated that this will depend on the college. Griffin pointed out that college representatives on the University Curriculum Committee are supposed to be elected by the college but many people are probably appointed by the Dean of the college.

Moeller noted that Associate VC Wilson stated at a recent meeting that the Senate does not have to vote on the proposals. Bradford stated that he informed Associate VC Wilson that there would not be a problem in getting the Senate to approve the proposals. He pointed out that since the University Curriculum Committee charges are being changed the Senate will need to approve the proposals.

Ledder stated that he would like to see the Committee make a motion at the October Senate meeting to approve the proposals. Bradford suggested that the motion include approving all of the ACE proposals.

Ledder noted that section 7 lays out the chain of responsibility. Alloway stated that he does not know if faculty members can pull out of teaching some of the ACE courses in small departments. Ledder stated that someone else could be assigned to teach the course because the department is obligated to teach it.

Alloway asked what form the aggregated samples will take. Ledder stated that for many courses it will be easy. An electronic copy of a term paper is all that would be needed. For other courses it might be more difficult such as broadcasting courses. Alloway stressed that faculty members will need to see some direct benefit in order for them to readily accept the additional work of gathering and processing the samples of student work. He noted concerns expressed by faculty members about time spent on reports and documents that get put in files and never used. Moeller noted that the proposals state that the samples will be posted on a website. Ledder stated that in Section VII, 1A it states that at the department level material would be used to recertify courses.

Bradford pointed out a problem in section VIII. He noted that with the way it is currently written all courses would come up for recertification at the same time. He suggested that the recertification timeline be staggered across the whole five years.

Moeller moved that the Executive Committee present a motion to the Senate to approve ACE Proposals 1 – 4. Ledder seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, October 3 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Rick Alloway, Secretary.