

Standing Committee Annual Report

Name of Committee or Council:

Campus Safety and Roads Committee

Chair

Dr. Christos Frentzos

Meeting Dates in Current Year:

October 31, 2011; March 16, 2012

Major Actions or Accomplishments:

Campus Safety and Roads Committee Fall 2011 Meeting; October 31, 2011

1). Questions regarding motorcycles

Motorcycles have colored stick-on parking decals.

Motorcycles can park in the small left-over corner spaces in some lots and they are not ticked – this is not published policy though.

*** Committee Recommendation:** In the future we should revisit the issue of bike spots and consider making it official policy that motorcycles can park in some of the left-over areas in parking lots – those that could safely accommodate a bike without any safety issues. This could be done by painting the left-over corner spaces on some lots and labeling them “motorcycle parking” so that motorcycles would not be taking up as many “car” parking spots.

2). Posting Parking Regulations On-line

Parking regulations need to be posted on-line – not just in the handbook. Parking map is on-line, but no regulations.

*** Committee Recommendation:** We would like to see the parking regulations placed on the Office of Public Safety web site so that they are available online. They are now available online only by accessing the online student handbook. We can ask President Hall if this can just be done by Public Safety now or do we need TBR approval to do this?

3). ROTC would like to trade parking spaces

Randal E. Underhill, Senior Military Instructor, Army ROTC. ROTC would like to trade the parking spaces locations for the ROTC faculty from the street on the west side of the Memorial Health Building to the parking area adjacent to our flagpole on the east side of Memorial Health. They are asking that six spaces that are currently painted orange for Sevier & Blount be rezoned to Faculty and the Faculty spaces on Drane Street could be rezoned. ROTC wants to trade up to 8 (but they would settle for 6 or 4) of the new red parking spaces in front of their building on Drane Street for 8 near their flagpole and office doors in the back. The student spaces lost between their building and Sevier would be made up by the pickup of the same number of spaces in front of the ROTC building.

*** Committee Recommendation:** NO. Joe Mills is opposed and the committee agrees.

Student residential parking should remain as is.

4). Idea of going to a 3 year faculty parking decal

Ed Gross has proposed going to 3 year decals and putting everyone on payroll deduction (to make it work).

*** Committee Recommendation:** the committee thinks the University should place all faculty and staff on payroll deduction. This is more convenient and would make it easy to simply extend the current issued decals for another year or more to save money on printing costs.

The argument used against going to a multiple yearly tag that it could be borrowed by friends and family members, is a weak argument the committee believes, as this can be done now with one year tags.

5). Can employees (red decal) use the parking lot (white decal) between Forbes and Marion for overflow staff parking form the 601 North Second building. They want a ruling from our committee on this. (e-mail from Anna Murray (Sept. 7, 2011)

*** Committee Recommendation: Yes.** The committee suggests that 5 placards be created for employees of GIS & IT which share the building at 601 North Second. These placards would be placed on their dash allowing them to park in the top of the White "L" residential lot between Forbes and Marion Street thereby freeing up parking around their building which could then be used for visitors and guests. Physical Plant would then place two visitor parking space signs in front of the 601 North Second building.

6). Make the parking on Gows Lane on the side of the Red Barn staff parking once again (they used to be staff then were changed to student housing (orange) a few years ago. Hardly anyone parks there with the tearing down of old dorms and the construction of new ones. Making it red would help faculty and staff working in the UC, Bookstore and Red Barn.

*** Committee Recommendation: NO.** Joe Mills points out that while the lots are not heavily used now, the number of housing units far exceeds the current number of residential parking spaces available. Currently there are 221 orange parking spaces available for the fall 2011 semester. Residential students available to park in these areas number 371. So while many lots are not filling up now, they could in future semesters and these spots must be available for student housing.

7). Request that the current handicap parking lots in Archwood be converted to parking for Center Excellence for Field Biology (CEFB) vehicles.

At some point the parking behind the Sundquist Building next to the former boat garage is to be converted from parking for Center Excellence for Field Biology (CEFB) vehicles to handicap parking. The reason is that the existing handicap spots in the Archwood lot are not ADA compliant because the lot is too sloped. As the Center will be losing these parking spots for their field research vehicles, they have requested that the current handicap parking spots in Archwood be converted to parking for CEFB vehicles as their existing spots are converted to handicap parking.

*** Committee Recommendation:** Parking behind Sundquist Science Complex (next to the former boat garage) is to be converted to handicap parking. The spaces that are now marked handicap behind Archwood should be converted to red (faculty). Again, this needs to be done because the handicap spots in the Archwood lot are not ADA compliant. At some point Dean Taylor may make a recommendation for 1-2 spots be marked for CEFB state vehicles to be placed on campus and the remaining vehicles be moved to the farm. Dean Taylor's suggestion was to have them park 2 vehicles in the Pettus Parking lot if it is not filling daily.

8). Naming the unnamed street behind the Archwood lot.

*** Committee Recommendation:** The committee has voted to name the undammed street behind the Archwood lot "Think Tank Alley."

Campus Safety and Roads Committee Spring 2011 Meeting; March 16, 2012

1. It has been proposed that a set price be established for the cost of a replacement decal. At the present time if you lose your decal you will need to purchase a new one at the current price for the remainder of the year. Instead, replacements should have a fixed price.

***The committee decided** that there should be a set price for replacement decals. Currently if someone loses their decal, the cost of a replacement is prorated. The committee recommends that a set price of \$10 should be charged for all replacement decals.

2. The campus is looking at placing large signs in the parking lots to make it easier for students to identify which lot they are authorized to park in. The signs will also help identify which part of the lot the student is parked if they need to call for assistance.

***The committee supports** the idea of placing large signs on tall poles in the parking lots, similar to what is used at airports and malls, to identify parking areas. It is proposed that this should begin first with the commuter lots. Bill Persinger, Executive Director of Public Relations and Marketing, will be involved with approving the sign design.

3. With the construction of the new Math and Computer Science building, the issue of parking in the 8th Street lot and the College/Ford lot will need to be addressed. Some ideas that have been suggested include:

All the parking of 8th Street lot should be red.

Part of the parking of 8th Street lot should be red.

Part of the parking of the College/Ford Street lot (new lot next to Hemlock) should be red.

All the parking of the College/Ford Street lot should be red.

Dean Taylor suggested maybe adding 30-35 red spots in one or both lots and then

publicizing to faculty that they can park in green areas.
(While it not official policy, currently campus police do not ticket faculty if they park in student [green] spaces.)

***The committee decided** that these issues should be tabled for now. The issue of parking in these areas will be reassessed in the fall once construction has begun on the new building.

4. There is some interest in exploring the possibility of a 4 way stop at the corner of 8th and Jackson Alley. Jackson Alley can become very congested in the afternoons and turning onto 8th during peak times can often be difficult.

***The committee notes** that there is currently a four-way stop at the corner of Marion and 8th and a traffic light at the corner of College and 8th. As a result, placing a stop sign on 8th and Jackson Alley may create more congestion. The committee has decided to table this question for now and revisit it in the fall. Since this is a public street, this is something that would ultimately be a city decision and require an official study from the proper authorities.

5. SGA Senator Jonathan Jeans has brought to the attention of our committee issues of concern to students regarding lighting on campus pathways and parking lots. Specifically students have expressed concerns regarding lighting around the Dunn Center, including behind it for those campus residents that walk home to Emerald Hills and Two Rivers Apartments. Also, lighting behind McCord and right beside Ellington has been an issue for students. Many of them have expressed great concern that the walkway to Meacham Apartments and Hand Village is not well lit in the evenings.

***The committee supports the idea of improving lighting in these areas.** The committee recommends that Tom Hutchins, the Physical Plant Director and the Department of Public Safety should address this issue.

6. The Executive Council has pointed out the need for more visitor parking spaces in high traffic locations. The Executive Council has developed a proposal in collaboration with Andy Kean, Director of University Facilities. These proposals were sent to our committee by Sherryl A. Byrd, Vice President for Student Affairs. The Executive Council has asked that our committee consider the following four points:

1. **Designate additional visitor parking spaces on Browning Drive.** There are currently two visitor spaces near the University Center and two next to McCord Hall. There are many visitors to the UC (programs, events, meetings, etc.), Browning (Human Resources, Development, Bursar), Ellington (Admissions, Financial Aid), and McReynolds (Distance Education, Veterans Upward Bound). They have recommended that the two spaces next to McCord be returned to red and

that eight red spaces nearest the UC and Browning buildings be made visitor. Other than parking for the disabled, this would make all the spaces starting at the pedestrian crosswalk from McReynolds toward the UC visitor spaces.

The Campus Safety and Roads Committee supports this proposal.

2. **Establish two visitor spaces near the Library.** The Library is frequently used by the public. There are also visitors to the African American Cultural Center and the Center for the Creative Arts, both located in Clement. This would require changing two red spaces to visitor. They suggest using two spaces located next to Clement.

The Campus Safety and Roads Committee supports this proposal.

3. **Add another visitor space next to the Bookstore.** It is difficult for alumni, parents, prospective students and community members to get to the Bookstore. There is currently one visitor space. To add a second space would require the elimination of one orange space available to resident students.

The Campus Safety and Roads Committee supports this proposal. However, the committee believes that this can be accomplished without the elimination of an orange space.

4. **Convert the visitor spaces described above to metered parking.** They feel there needs to be a limited time frame available for visitors to conduct business on campus. They have observed vehicles parked in the visitor spaces for hours, entire days or multiple days. They do not believe that is the intended use of visitor spaces. This would help to ensure that spaces are reasonably available when people need to visit an office on campus. This would not necessarily apply to other visitor spaces located elsewhere on campus. This proposal is specific to those visitor spaces located in the center of campus near buildings/functions with a high volume of traffic.

The Campus Safety and Roads Committee supports this proposal. In regard to the visitor parking described above, the Campus Safety and Roads Committee suggests that visitors should have an official "visitor" decal from the Office of Public Safety to display in their vehicle. The committee would like to see signs placed in front of visitor parking spaces which would state something to the effect of "Visitor Permit Required – See Public Safety Office." Eventually, the committee believes that parking meters should be placed in front of all visitor parking on campus to eliminate the need for visitor decals. However, the issue of metered parking is something that will need to be discussed and approved by Police Chief Terence Calloway, Physical Plant Director Tom Hutchins, and Bill Persinger.

7. Finally the Safety and Roads Committee supports the idea currently under consideration by the University to mandate that all employees be placed on payroll deduction for parking decals. The new decals will be 3-5 year decals and will thereby save money by eliminating the need for the university to purchase decals every year.
8. The committee also supports the idea currently being considered by the Department of Public Safety to convert the Burt and Foy parking lots to angled parking with one way lanes. This will reduce accidents by making it easier for cars to see as they back out of parking spaces. While this will eliminate at least one car space in each row, the small corner areas can be used for motorcycle parking.