

Present: Eric Blakely, Kristina Boggan, Jeffrey Boyd, Joey Brent, Kim Chrestman, Jessica Coker, Missy Downey, Tiffany Edwards, Paul Goolsby, Melinda Grimmett, Valarie Haynes Kelly Houston, Natcha Knight-Evans, , Ginger Patterson, Felisa Redmond, Pamela Smith, Patricia Stewart, Johnette Tayler-Jenkins, Precious Pratt-Thompson, Amanda Walker, Nikki Weaver.

Absent-Excused: Premalatha Balachandran, Paula Beard, Alicia Goodson, Shelia Goolsby, Carl Hill, Merrill Magruder, Shelley McGraw, Raymus Purnell, Jacqueline Vinson & Deetra Wiley.

Absent-Unexcused: Doug Gurley.

Roll call: (Sign-in sheet).

Call to Order: The September Staff Council meeting was call to order by Amanda Walker, beginning at 10:30am.

Guest Speakers – Proposed Parking Changes

Larry Sparks and Mr. Astill discussed in detail the parking issues on campus: The Chancellor stated, “We must grow to maintain a vital institution in a controllable manner to accommodate the increasing student enrollment,” according to Larry Sparks. In an effort to control enrollment growth, so that the university can accommodate the students, faculty, and staff through more capacity such as classrooms, office space, and infrastructure administration has asked for assistance with its Master Plan in terms of Parking. Parking is an issue to address to ensure that we accommodate such growth. We must begin to assess parking now to prepare for the future. A committee and recommendations took effect to merge parking and transportation. Due to large enrollment, the university had to decline on some non-residents, but still sustained a 3 1/2% increase in enrollment (still above or along with other institutions in the state per IHL).

Mr. Astill discussed the University’s current Parking Services available to students and staff members. The University has a partnership with the City of Oxford is in full control of the operations due to the City securing a federal grant. This grant occupies 80% of the capital and 50% of operation, which is split with the university. We pay an additional amount for all students and faculty to use the OUS buses free. The University has purchased shuttle buses used for the Self Park and Ride population. The University covers 100 percent of the cost for upkeep and maintenance of the shuttle buses for the Self Park and ride population.

To accommodate growth, this moves the students and administration back in the outer areas of campus for parking. Commuters and Faculty/ Staff should expect this within the future (3-5 years out).

The parking garage which was thought of back in the 1990’s as a possible solution, would cost \$2500/\$3000 to build per parking space for maintenance and operational. At the UMC, there is an average cost of \$16,500 per parking stalls. Staff and Students are charged by the month for the upkeep of the space, elevators, and security. Possible space, funding is being researched for a garage on UM campus. *Please take note that this is not something that has been decided on.*

The purpose of merging the parking and transportation is to hire an expert in the field to focus on strategically finding the best way to handle parking for the university, and allocating funding in needed areas daily, preferably in a three-year transition.

Currently, there is no funding source for street's infrastructure water well, etc. The UPD (decatur revenue) and PPA (**auxiliary revenue**) – operates on the revenue they generate and must stay within those means.

It is imperative to our future that we continue to grow. We have seen up to a 22% increase in enrollment since 2008. In measuring this approach, the solutions for parking are different price ranges and distinct methodologies.

Park-N-Ride will change and there will be options—parking for convenience, cheap options, extended pay period. For the next five to six years, a plan should be in place to make sure that we can accommodate the growth of the students. Creating more surface lots will push us further away from the campus.

Questions and Discussion for Mr. Isaac Astill –

1. What does it actually cost for parking at other SEC institutions with a main shuttle system?

Within reason, SEC universities are charging much more for parking than UM is. Please see the sheet that is broken down by what students are charged and faculty/ staff is charged attached.

If you will, think about paying a \$1000 for a parking space 6 days a week yearly for a guaranteed spot, this will cover all the expenses of \$15,000 to \$18,000 for the maintenance upkeep.

2. Where is Ole Miss in lining up with the other rates as well what we want to implement next year -5 year- 10-year plan for Faculty, Staff, students, administration?

The committee will get a good idea of what is reasonable, if not, what do you suggest? Numbers will be thrown out, and the committee should get a pretty valid consensus from a surveyed group with responses, and a report will be given to Larry Sparks to be passed on to the Chancellor.

The shuttle system has been great; the Park-n- Ride added routes allowed 11,500 pedestrians to park on the out exterior of the campus.

Garage - we are looking at reserved stalls – premiums will have to be paid for priority, tier-parking system – through recommendations. Numbers and recommendations will be present to the committee. If the Committee agrees on the recommendation, it is then sent to Larry Sparks.

It has to be reasonable, balance what the needs are now and what we will be able to be prepared to do.

3. (Kim Chrestman) Right now, there is free parking on campus for visitors, if they get a ticket on campus that fees are waived. Will that change? Yes, Future Plans: Provide designated areas on campus for visitors and grant departments reduce fees for the visitor to part on campus. To have a possible welcome center site – For Orientation, Admissions, and for recruiting purposes.
4. If you are sick, can you park near the Employee Health Center, which is priority area? There will be an appropriate fee for the Health Center parking – special permit.
5. How much we get, where we get it from, and how we use it in terms of parking fees are all good questions. Funding is a major issue in supporting the upcoming decisions the committee will have to make. As the changes take place, each year will be evaluated. This is an ongoing topic of discussion, which is handled by few administrative offices. You should expect many parking changes to be implemented soon.
6. Discussion: Auburn Visit
 - a. Findings from visit to Auburn University: Several of us traveled to Auburn to look at their student union and their transportation system. Our rates are much less...Auburn has the same master plan that we are planning to implement.

- We are the lowest of AUBURN.
- Auburn student's fees are \$120 - \$170 per semester.
- 57 shuttles operating 7am - 6pm Mon _Friday
- 10 Shuttles at night 6pm – 10pm
- Several weekend routes
- Fringe benefits of the university and employee transportation fees

7. Discussion: Possible Ways to Offset Parking Fee Increases

We are looking for several options on how we can make it not be such a huge impact on the employees.

Please understand before you re-act put out some examples that show you how it will work with your benefits. If it is pretax, you have a cost 70% of that figure charged for parking. Extend it by a couple more pay periods. This will allow payroll deductions (Example: \$240 pre-tax a semester \$150.00 pretax - \$105).

We are working toward a balance, from this hard decision. As we move forward, please keep all lines of communication open talk to us. There will be some dramatic changes to moving more to a pedestrian campus. Walking through the campus, there will not be a lot of parking next to buildings or in the core of the campus. This will create beautiful scenery for this campus. Centerpiece of our campus is the students and their academics.

This will be a long process for us. If you look what at support services, we are already losing many of our lots on campus. Several areas are that had been parking are now building, the quad by the library, building expansion from building.

We need to grow with the core making it more convenience for not only us but for the students. There are good solutions, do not think about how we have always done things, as we grow; there must be a change. We need a new approach to parking to balance the growth of enrollment.

Chancellor Report: No report

However, there have been questions about the number of days we are getting off for the holiday and why we are again coming back on Jan. 2. In our minds, we are being shorted a day, and that we should be given it an extra day off this year. That is not the case because we are on a fiscal year (July 1- July 1) calendar and not a calendar-year calendar. The number of days we have off according to Human Resources is correct. We will get a half day off the day we leave for Thanksgiving. All staff will have a sit-down luncheon, including all physical plant workers.

October Minutes:

The October minutes, were approved with minor corrections. Motion to approve the minutes was by Nicki Weaver and seconded by Ginger Patterson approved by consensus. The minutes are sent out via email, and any comments/questions/or changes should be emailed to Jacqueline Vinson (jvinson@olemiss.edu)

October Treasurer Report:

The October treasury report was approved with no corrections and brief applications of current spending for the upcoming Staff Council December Social. Motion to approve the treasury

report was by Joey Brent and second by Pam Smith. Motion approved by consensus. The treasurer report will be sent out via email, and any comments/questions/or changes should be emailed to Nicki Weaver nicwea@olemiss.edu or unicwea@olemiss.edu.

Nomination for Staff Member of the Month for November:

Nominations from the ballots taken from the website, through email, for the selection of a Staff Member for the Months for November; the Staff Council voted on the nominees and affirmed that the November Staff Member of the Month is Ashley Smith-Baker.

New Business: None

Old Business:

- Implementation committee for the Smoking Policy has not met. Kim and Amanda have been working on the letter and will get back to the Staff Council with an update soon.
- The staff Appreciation Committee will meeting immediately after the meeting.
- Public Relations Committee has approved the November newsletter and 175 copies will be mailed out and other will be going out by email.

Standing Committee Updates:

- Parking and Transportation - Some of the meeting information that was discussed was also discussed at this meeting today, especially the cost of a Parking Garage and how much he wanted to go to that cost. The cost that he presented today was more reasonable than what they had quoted and so was the progress.

Announcements:

- Johnette reported that the Adopt the Basket collection times are Mon & Tue 10-3, Wednesday, 9-Noon in the Union Ballroom. Our goal last year was 500 and we got 497. It will again be 500 this year. The baskets will be delivered Wednesday afternoon. Posters & flyers are available for departments. They are low on the volunteer count, if you can please volunteer or ask students, faculty, or staff to help. Information will be coming about the Million Meal Challenge.

Meeting adjourned 11:40a.m. Next Meeting: Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 10:30 A.M.,
Physical Plant Conference Room

Minutes recorded and submitted by Jacqueline Vinson, Secretary.