

Transportation & Parking Committee (TPC)
17 February 2014 Minutes
Third Floor Conference Room, Holtzman Alumni Center

Members present:

Ladd Brown, Gregory Fansler, Joey Albert (for Kevin Foust), Leon Geyer, Bruce Harper, Kathy Hosig, Mackenzie Jarvis, Richard McCoy, Ben Poe, Kasey Richardson

Members absent:

Virgilio Centeno, Patricia Williams

Guests:

Christopher Peters, Wyatt Sasser

Agenda and minutes:

The 27 January 2014 minutes were approved as amended.

Parking and Transportation (P&T) update:

McCoy confirmed that it had snowed and that Parking Services (PS) and outside contractors had cleared the lots satisfactorily. Due to the magnitude of the storm, piles of plowed snow are taking up spaces; the favorable forecast for this week should hasten the melting.

Parking Appeals Hearing Committee (PAHC aka Second Appeals Subcommittee) update:

Peters and Sasser, PAHC co-chairs, contributed to the thorough analysis and discussion of McCoy's second draft of the PAHC background information and operational procedures document. Summaries of the historical issues and proposed improvements are as follows:

Membership:

- Formerly, PS promoted the PAHC and members recruited other members through informal channels; with PAHC a part of university governance, members would be formally identified or nominated and appointed in the same manner as other university governing bodies.
- Balanced membership with adequate student representation was not always obtainable; having designated representatives and alternates from student populations on the PAHC would give student appellants (the majority of appellants) the opportunity to appeal in a peer-to-peer environment.
- The permit-holder requirement for PAHC membership would be waived; the proposed PAHC would consist of unconditional and governance-appointed membership from the major campus populations (undergraduate students, graduates, faculty, and staff).
- There was discussion of each population supplying one member and two alternates to create a PAHC hearing pool of 12; there was also discussion of the TPC naming one member and an alternate to create a PAHC hearing pool of ten.
- It was mentioned that affiliation with PS or Alternative Transportation would not necessarily be a conflict of interest.
- It was also mentioned that the PAHC chair could appoint an ad hoc member in order to have the minimum committee members present to conduct an appeals hearing.
- For faculty and staff membership, it was suggested that the initial members be appointed on staggered, one-, two-, and three-year terms to create a turnover cycle; consecutive membership terms need to match those described in other governance bylaws.

Scheduling:

- Because of the large caseloads and relatively-small size of the committee, PAHC commitment could be daunting; with formal committee appointments and an increased roster, the minimum number of PAHC members required for an appeals hearing would be all-but-guaranteed and the workload more-evenly distributed among the PAHC.
- Due to the decreased number of appeals over the past few semesters, it is possible that the scheduling of hearings could be decreased.

On a related scheduling note, it was suggested that the PAHC be a regular TPC agenda item with a report either presented or delivered by the PAHC chair.

Other topics in this discussion included:

- an explanation of why and when a citation may be reduced or dismissed
- appeals hearings record-keeping requirements
- the possibility of allowing technologically-enhanced (e.g., Skype) appeals
- re-scheduling hearings
- recuse situations and recuse provisions

Sasser then delivered statistics (courtesy of Penny Mills at PS) from July 2013 through January 2014. Of the 15,017 citations issued, only 66 of them made it to the PAHC docket.

McCoy will distribute the third version of the draft at the 17 March 2014 meeting. The TPC will work to get the document before the Commission on University Support in time for a Fall Semester 2014 implementation.

Scooters on campus update:

In a re-examination of the August 2013 concern over scooters on campus, today's discussion included:

- that as of 1 July 2014, scooters in Virginia scooters will need to be titled, registered, and displaying a license plate
- to park a titled, registered, and plated vehicle on campus, you will need a PS parking permit of some type
- Bike, Bus & Walk (BB&W) participants can obtain 15 daily hangtag parking permits per semester
- these daily BB&W hangtag permits may be used on a scooter
- PS will furnish a combination lock/cable/holder kit to qualifying scooter drivers

Virginia Tech Police Department (VTPD) update:

Albert did not have any updates from Foust. There were two questions concerning students being employed as security camera monitors:

- When? The Fall 2014 Semester is the target date.
- Will international students would be eligible for these positions? Contact Virginia Tech Human Resources for their answer.

Constituent Reports:

Redistributing parking for graduate students on assistantship (follow-up to last month's agenda item: The possibility of more short-term exclusively commuter (undergrad) parking to save space for grad students who are typically here all day long [Richardson, Graduate Student Assembly]).

Richardson reported that in 2013, 73% of the graduate students (3401 of 4647) were on assistantships. McCoy agreed that the Teaching Assistant (TA) parking spaces need to be better utilized; PS is monitoring the use of the TA spaces (the TA permit is free to Graduate Permit (G) holders, pending department approval).

The possibility of a TA+G permit was mentioned. Changes and improvements would ideally be in place for the Fall 2014 Semester.

There was a comment about the large number of state-owned vehicles in lots; McCoy mentioned that the potential increase in the monthly and or long-term rental rates may lead to a reduction in the departmental use of state-owned vehicles.

The March meeting is Monday, March 17th at 11:00 am. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room in the Holtzman Alumni Center. Jason Soileau, assistant vice president for the Office of University Planning, will present on the Drillfield Drive project at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ladd Brown
Recorder