

**Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

January 13, 2015

10:30AM – 12:00PM

Facilities Services Building A Conference Room

**Attendees:**

Karin Groth, TAPS (non-voting)

Sergeant George Gongora, UCMDPS

Martin Reed, Director of Residential Life

Arokiaraj Panneer Selvam, Remote Site Representative

Coty Ventura, Staff Assembly Representative

Emily Wilson, GSR Representative TA

Donna Birch Trahan, Communications

Tibor Toth, (non-voting)

James Nardello, (non-voting)

Michael Reese, VC for Business & Administrative Services

Sonia Johnston, Chief of Staff, VC Business & Administrative Services  
Fanis Tsoulouhas. Faculty

**Attended via Ready Talk:**

Drew Shelburne, Disability Services Coordinator

Alex Khislavsky, Lecturer

***Old Business***

Coty Ventura provided feedback for Staff Assembly: Additional announcements do not need to be sent if duplicate. Issue regarding new stop at Bellevue Ranch, if cut out on G Street would work as a bus stop. Students don’t feel safe where current stop is located.

Karin Groth stated concern about vehicles parked on both sides of G Street. Continue to look at other options regarding this issue.

George Gongora – page 3 Le Grand Lot and Library enforcement hours – briefly mentioned what changing enforcement hours would do to traffic patterns.

James Nardello- Social network data collection allows TAPS to see who is using social media. TAPS is now able to collect and compile data and will be presented at next month’s meeting.

**Meeting Minutes**

Not approved

**Action Item Update**

Karin Groth said we are tabling current action item updates for next meeting.

***New Business***

**Proposed parking permit renewal policy by divisional council**

VC Reese - spoke with Greg Campfield regarding a request. UC Merced is a growing campus that does not yet have clear plans – Until there is clarity regarding the 2020 plan footprint it is difficult for TAPS to plan the future of parking and transportation.

The department is operating under restraints of growing constituencies which reflect a growing campus. TAPS may not offer the certainty of parking spaces, due to buildings being built where current lots are located. In regards to permit distribution, the department can begin offering a higher amount of service with the use of easy to navigate technology. VC Reese meet with the divisional council and faculty to discuss each proposal and the impact and practicality for all. Some proposals have been brought forward in the past.

1. **All permanent employees including postdoctoral fellows with multiple-year contracts shall have automatic renewal of their current permit in August, unless the employee opts out by informing TAPS after being notified of the automatic renewal by e-mail.**

Karin Groth – This is a request that has been made in the past, due to the growing campus TAPS could not provide certainty of existing parking from on year to the next. In the past preferred parking locations such as Shaver Lake and Library Lot 2 became unavailable due to construction. TAPS would like to explore automatic renewal as the campus goes. The department wanted to provide everyone the opportunity to have preferred parking locations since there is a high demand and limited number of permits; this keeps the process fair from year to year for those who are eligible.

Fanis Tsoulouhas – Who is eligible for preferred permits?

Karin Groth – Graduate student researchers (GSR, faculty, staff, teaching assistants (TA’s), and Competitive fellowships. We have a large customer base trying to get a small number of permits.

Fanis Tsoulouhas – At other schools automatic renewal was standard, while UC Merced is a new campus there is no reason not to implement the process. In the past there was no commitment with the Le Grand Lot but there is now, which is why there is no issue with implementing the process quickly.

VC Reese – The concern with automatic renewal are Library, Library 2, and Le Grand Lots. If we adopt the automatic renewal proposal in 6 months we could lose 300 spaces with the construction of a new building. Current discussion for parking locations, both temporary and permanent, would be placing lots on the boundary of the campus footprint and having a shuttle service. This means we would be able to offer preferred parking but it may be on the outskirts of campus.

VC Reese’s goal is to have the Le Grand be a permanent lot but we are waiting on the presentation of the master plan. The chief concern is a building will be placed where the Le Grand Lot is currently because of existing infrastructure.

Alex Khislavsky– Lecturers concern with automatic renewal is their contracts work differently than faculty. They have to reapply for positions, would they still be eligible for automatic renewal? Lecturers know by April if their contracts have been renewed.

Karin Groth – Perhaps permit renewal could be opened earlier in the year for certain groups of faculty and lecturers.

VC Reese discussed the possibility of North Bowl 2 becoming multi-level parking decks with solar parking. Parking structures are significantly more expensive than surface lots. Temporary parking structures are more affordable and this option is still being analyzed.

Karin Groth - the cost per space for a parking structure is between $27,000 and $30,000 compared to $5,000 per space for a surface lot.

VC Reese - These types of structures have ramps leading to upper levels and valet parking could be an option. Some of the land adjacent to UCM is a conservation with wetlands, while other areas may be turned into recreation. Lake Yosemite may be an option.

Karin Groth - shuttles would be used for parking at Yosemite Lake if this became an off campus parking location. The department is also exploring park and ride opportunities. In the future, the current Lake Lots, may become Housing, Bellevue will be the main entrance to campus and temporary parking would be towards the south of campus. The Library Lot will be made into a high mobility lot. Ongoing construction and with additional buildings coming online, discussions should take place regarding parking in close proximity for unloading zones, service vehicles, ADA, etc.

Karin Groth – The campus is required to have a certain amount of ADA accessible spaces and the Le Grand Lot has the highest quantity of those spaces.

James Nardello – Currently there are nine ADA accessible spaces in Le Grand Lot, seven for ADA and two are van accessible. If a building is placed where Le Grand Lot is we may need to keep some ADA spaces in the area.

Tibor Toth- As the campus grows parking for service vehicles, VIP, etc. could be a possibility.

VC Reese – Tibor Toth is working with the team who is writing the RFP for the 2020 project. This involves writing in specifications for new building in regards to parking i.e. accessible spaces, service vehicles, guest parking etc. It is possible to do automatic renewal for preferred parking but not for specific parking lots.

Karin Groth– Additionally, customers currently pay $68 for the Le Grand Lot, would they be willing to be pay a higher rate for further parking? For the fall 2015 permit cycle we are prepared to extend validity for existing parking until December 2015 so we will have a better idea of where parking will be located.

Fanis Tsoulouhas– It would be helpful for faculty to know early on what will happen in the Fall because many faculty have 9 month appointments and are gone until the following semester. This was a major complaint, many individuals were all over the world and unable to get permits.

Karin Groth – As previously mentioned we will have already started early renewal to address this issue.

Sonia Johnston – What I am hearing, is current permits will be extended through December 2015, a decision will be made, based on the RFP, regarding automatic renewals in fall 2015. Extending the permit will be similar to automatic renewal but the old permits will be displayed.

Tibor Toth – The big challenge is the procurement process, we do not dictate the outcome; we dictate performance for desired outcome. We will not know the Master Plan and be ready to react until 3rd quarter of next year.

VC Reese – At the February meeting TAPS will present recommendations regarding parking permit extensions.

Fanis Tsoulouhas – The faculty and should be talked to regarding the process. When I am giving faculty an update what should I communicate? Are we considering automatic renewals or guaranteeing automatic renewals?

Karin Groth – TAPS is more than willing to speak with faculty and staff. We strongly recommend extending the permits.

VC Reese – The topic was favorably received and discussed. The final decision is pending.

Karin Groth- This committee works because we have input from all campus constituencies, who present different aspects and have the opportunity to express concerns.

VC Reese – Something to be considered by faculty, staff, and graduate students is this proposal will work for a year or two. When we increase hiring there will be an impact, new people will not be able to get parking, and there will be a downstream impact. .

Fanis Tsoulouhas – Faculty fees anxious because we have to teach and want to do a good job. There are times when we have 10 meetings a day and we are unable to find parking. This impacts teaching performance but we will take off campus parking into consideration.

Tibor Toth – What kind of proximity or duration/distance would be acceptable for remote parking?.

Fanis Tsoulouhas – The closer the better; there is some understanding but they want to see planning. We thought there was commitment to Le Grand Lot? Are we planning ahead? The preference would be parking close to the building where classrooms are located.

VC Reese – In writing specifications for RFP could we write in not being able to take the entire footprint of the Le Grand Lot.

Tibor Toth – Remote parking is the current proposal. The RFP needs to be written as a performance aspect rather than a design aspect.

1. **Anyone can opt out of parking permit**

This is a current process.

1. **Establish a waiting list of permanent employees for the parking lots with high demand, but priority should be given based on seniority for both faculty and staff. Founding faculty and staff should be given highest priority in recognition of their years of service.**

Karin Groth – A waitlist is already established. Priority has been brought up in the past, priority based parking was an issue because it was based on seniority and tenured staff. The topic is up for the committee to discuss if we go back to this option.

Martin Reed– How do we define seniority?

Fanis Tsoulouhas – System professor - academic rank rather years of services.

Coty Ventura – Will take it to staff assembly to discuss.

Alex Khislavsky – Lecturers would be at disadvantage because of the renewal of their contracts. Seniority would not be equivalent to faculty. There is no way to measure seniority unless they have been in office for 6 years.

Martin Reed– At the last institution I worked at there was no parking, they were big on sustainability and seniority was based on hire date rather than position, which was simple.

Certain positions such as a Vice Chancellor or President could write a justification letter to higher management for parking.

Tibor Toth –What if there was an inter-transit system that serviced the remote parking?

Fanis Tsoulouhas- How many shuttles would be running we need to give people options?

VC Reese – From a financial perspective, it costs more to have a five minute wait versus a 10 minute wait.

James Nardello – We do have a medical permits for temporary medical conditions. The customer needs to submit a doctor’s note with a beginning and end date.

Karin Groth – For longer term health issues we have disability permits (DP) permits, which can be obtained by bringing in a valid DMV issued placard and registration. . When the campus first opened there was more parking available. The committee decided only TA’s were eligible for preferred parking. As the committee grew, researchers were brought on and at the time there was enough parking, so researchers and graduate students became eligible. Graduate students have always understood that parking privileges and availability may change from year to year. We have talked about only granting eligibility to students who are on a competitive fellowship.

Fanis Tsoulouhas –You could give priority to faculty, if they do not want these spots then staff and lecturers with long term contracts should get priority.

Karin Groth – Graduate students understand that faculty and staff are given priority but they don’t think they should be banned from preferred parking privileges.

VC Reese – Please take this back to you prospective groups, to help define seniority and how they feel about giving faculty priority.

Karin Groth – When speaking with your prospective groups I can come and participate in the discussion.

Alex Khislavsky – I will bring the seniority issue to the union rep because of lecturer higher dates and contracts.

1. **The employees with annual or temporary appointment such as GSI’s, GSR’s, undergraduate inters and other temps will not have automatic renewal of the parking permit. Upon confirmation of the appointment in August, they will have higher priority for parking permit than the students without employment.**

This is the current system.

1. **The students without campus employment will be given the parking permit on the first-come first-served basis.**

Karin Groth – There will be no change as undergrads do not have access to preferred parking.

VC Reese – The new process will be implement by March; we will have more information at that time. What happened last year cannot be repeated as there was a lot of frustration.

Tibor Toth – What was the biggest challenge?

Fanis Tsoulouhas – The permits were sold out within two to three hours. High frustration for those who were abroad during distribution.

Tibor Toth – first come first served does not working.

VC Reese – The timing of when faculty can renew was an issue.

Karin Groth – Graduate students are required to come to the TAPS office because they do not have access to purchase permits online.

VC Reese – There will always be parking frustrations. What frustrations can we eliminate?

Fanis Tsoulouhas – Service vehicles and carts are travelling slowly on the roads. Can we have service roads on the perimeter of campus?

VC Reese – Review of service routes added to specifications. We need to wait for the master plans to come in so we have more information.

Karin Groth – Carts used to travel on Scholars Lane but there are too many pedestrians

VC Reese – All proposals must take into consideration safety issues.

Tibor Toth – We have thought of remote service areas and fuel stations – there is a cost saving having a single service location where vehicles transit out of which has a traffic impact.

Karin Groth – The next meeting will be in a better position to say where on campus and remote satellite locations.

**Library Lot Update**

Karin Groth – We will be implementing changes to the Library Lot. Currently staff are using the lot for all day parking; it will be turned into a high mobility lot for employees from satellite locations and visitors. There will be spaces for PPM’s, vanpool, and carpool with will reduce single occupancy vehicle down 50%. We are installing EV charging stations and solar meters for visitors.

James Nardello – We identified what types of spaces will be in the lot; department reserved spaces, PPMs, AUB’s, and 21 not marked spaces that will be taken away.

Karin Groth –When meeting with faculty we will discuss PPM’s as off-campus faculty are prime candidates.

James Nardello – We have all the signage and we would restripe so each space would be identified; the kiosk will be removed.

Alex Khislavsky – What would prevent long term parking while displaying PPM’s?

James Nardello- We are determining who would need the permit.

Karin Groth – There must be a business need to obtain a PPM.

Fanis Tsoulouhas – It seems like the Le Grand Lot loading and unloading spaces are being abused. They are not using spaces properly, not loading or unloading anything. They should have to get a permit from office.

James Nardello – We will look further into this issue.

Donna Birch-Trahan – What is the time line for Library Lot?

James Nardello – We are hesitant to provide a deadline; we began a soft roll out after break. Internal discussions need to happen to determine timing of full roll out.

Karin Groth – We would like feedback from the committee on how we should communicate the change to the campus.

James Nardello – When we started the process, we sent out a series of announcements and Facilities Advisory – to let the campus know certain changes are coming. We knew there would be 21 people displaced, having Library Lot 2 will help.

Karin Groth – The announcements, with help from Communications, should be effective and positive, to celebrate the rolling out of green initiatives.

Fanis Tsoulouhas –When we lose library, those people will park in the Le Grand Lot.

Karin Groth – We have considered this and are making sure they have space available.

Karin Groth – Between now and the next meeting, if you have individual meetings please invite me. At the next meeting we will be ready to present options for relocation or impart for the next term with some proposed parking locations for on and off campus. Please continue to discuss proposal and give suggestions for automatic renewals.

Meeting concluded at 12:02

**Next Meeting**

1. Date: February 10, 2015
2. Proposed Agenda Topics
3. Recap of Actions Items