

Final Report for 2022-23 Academic Year

Committee Name: Parking Advisory Committee

Date: May 26, 2023

Chairperson(s): Towana Moore, Interim VP of Administration and Finance (Fall meeting)
Craig Short, Assistant Vice President for Business Services (Spring meeting)

Committee members:

Faculty

1. Alex Gabbin, College of Business
2. Leslie Harlacker, Sociology and Anthropology
3. Dinesh Sharma, Mathematics & Statistics
4. Cathy Snyder, College of Business
5. Paul Warne, Mathematics & Statistics
6. Michael Yankey, College of Business

Staff

1. Robin Bryan, AVP for Information Technology
2. Rose Gray, English Department (Co-Chair of Parking Appeals Committee)
3. Tish Leeth, Director of Cash and Investments
4. Ben Lundy, Field Operations Manager for Parking and Transit Services (ex officio)
5. Tony Matos, JMU Chief of Police
6. Gary Shears, Executive Director of Facilities and Construction
7. John Skelly, Off-Campus Life (Co-Chair of Parking Appeals Committee)
8. Bill Yates, Director of Parking and Transit Services (ex officio)

Students

1. To be named
2. To be named
3. To be named

22/23 meeting dates:

December 6, 2022

April 25, 2023

Outgoing committee members:

1. Dinesh Sharma, Mathematics & Statistics

Recommendations for incoming members:

Faculty members representing other colleges or areas of campus

Summary of committee business for 22/23:

December 6, 2022 meeting – regularly scheduled fall meeting

Comments from the chair on the following:

Item 1: Successful transition to virtual permits and license plate recognition for 2022-2023

Item 2: Introduction of an initial warning for the shared permit violation for spring 2023

Item 3: Utilization of expanded electric charging stations for fall 2022

Item 4: Significant number of students purchased semester permits for fall 2022

Item 5: Introduction of a unique Hotel Madison guest parking violation

Item 1: Proposal from Sociology and Anthropology for reserved faculty/staff parking spaces in Frye Service Area

Overview: Refer to the proposal from Dr. Dennis Blanton, Associate Professor of Anthropology (attached)

Relevant information:

- The Frye Service Area is located between the Frye Building and Hoffman Hall.
- It is within the gated area of campus and is currently designated for service vehicle parking only.
- At this time, there are no parking spaces on campus reserved for specific faculty members.
- Historically, there have been no Service Representative privileges granted to faculty members for the express purpose of parking to teach classes.

Recommendation:

The Parking Advisory Committee recommended against changing policy to allow faculty members gate access or service rep parking privileges for the sole purpose of teaching classes. Departmental vehicles may be used in the Frye Service Area for the delivery of materials or other needs for close access to the buildings.

Item 2: Request from Parking and Transit to reinstall the chain dividing C10 Lot from D2 Lot

Overview: Parking and Transit would like to reinstall the chain separating parking lots D2 and C10 on Carrier Drive, which was removed in the fall of 2017.

Relevant information:

- Prior to the fall of 2017, posts and chains were used to create a barrier between C10 Lot, a commuter parking lot, and the adjacent D2 Lot, a faculty/staff parking lot, located on Carrier Drive. The barrier was placed in order to more clearly differentiate the two parking lots and prevent student drivers from receiving parking citations.

- In the fall of 2017, at the request of staff in the Leeolou Alumni Center, Parking and Transit Services removed the chain so that vehicle traffic could pass freely between the two lots without having to reenter from Carrier Drive. Signage was added at the split to draw attention to the transition from D2 Lot to C10 Lot, and to list the regulations for each lot.
- Since the chain was removed, there has been a substantial increase in the number of students receiving parking citations in D2 Lot. Many of the appeals submitted for these violations indicate that the drivers were confused about the split and the different regulations on each side, or were entirely unaware that C10 and D2 were separate lots due to the absence of a barrier between them.

Recommendation:

The Parking Advisory Committee supported the reinstallation of the chain separating C10 and D2 Lots.

Item 3: Proposal from Parking and Transit to reallocate f/s spaces for commuter use in Warsaw Deck

Overview: While the commuter parking near The Quad rarely fills to capacity, there are a couple of days of the week at times of peak demand when all commuter parking in the vicinity of The Quad, with the exception of the lots at Memorial Hall, reaches capacity. At the same time, parking allocated for faculty/staff use in the Warsaw Avenue Parking Deck is underutilized and a portion of that faculty/staff parking could be reallocated for use by commuting students without significantly impacting faculty/staff.

Relevant information:

- There are currently 219 faculty/staff spaces and 542 commuter spaces in the Warsaw Ave Deck.
- The commuter parking in the Warsaw Ave Deck typically fills to capacity before 10 AM, Monday through Thursday.
- Once the commuter parking in the Warsaw Ave Deck fills to capacity, commuters overflow to the Chesapeake Ave Deck or the resident parking lots on Harrison Street.
- On Mondays through Thursdays during the month of October 2022, the lowest number of vacant spaces per day in the faculty/staff section of the Warsaw Ave Deck ranged from 31 to 114 spaces, the average daily low was 61 spaces, and the median number of vacant spaces at the lowest point in the day was 55.
- The count of open spaces in the faculty/staff portion of the Warsaw Ave Deck is negatively influenced by commuter vehicles travelling to and from the commuter levels above and, as a result, the actual number of faculty/staff spaces available at any given time may be slightly higher.
- Removing the booths and associated islands near the entrances to the Warsaw Ave Deck would create an additional 14 parking spaces for faculty/staff.

- Installing single spaces sensors in the faculty/staff section of the Warsaw Ave Deck would lead to significantly more accurate counts of open spaces as the commuter traffic moving through would no longer negatively skew the counts.

Recommendation:

The Parking Advisory Committee supported the reallocation.

Additional agenda items from committee members:

None

5. Adjourn

April 25, 2023 meeting – regularly scheduled spring meeting

Comments from the chair on the following:

Item 1: Impact of the Carrier Library expansion and renovation project on B Lot

Item 2: Potential impact of Ikenberry Hall demolition on R1 Lot

Item 3: Transition of metered parking from pay-by-space to pay-by-plate for fall 2023

Item 4: Replacement of parking signs over the summer as part of the master signage plan

Item 1: Request from the Director of the Young Children’s Program for additional reserved spaces

Overview: “I am writing to request an increase of designated parking spots in S-Lot for our families to use here at YCP. Right now, there are 10 designated parking spots for families to use during drop off - when I started in 2021, we had 10 spots and 3 classrooms operating. Since then, we have added two new classrooms and went from serving approximately 60 families to now 82 families! Next year we will be adding an additional classroom, adding 16 more students. Parents often have to wait for a spot to open to drop their children off in the mornings as S-Lot gets full fast in non-marked spaces. Families drop off and pick up at various times throughout our day which will be from 7:30 am - 5:30 pm next year. I am requesting that all 14 spots in the row be marked for YCP families. This accommodation will also allow our families to only use I-Lot in a limited capacity which will keep traffic from obstructing any police vehicles. Please reach out if you need me to provide any additional information. Thank you for considering this request.” – Amy Taylor, M.Ed.

Relevant information:

- S Lot currently includes 53 faculty/staff, 10 YCP, 3 state vehicle, 2 ADA, and 2 police visitor spaces
- The majority of faculty/staff that currently park in S Lot work for Facilities Management
- Faculty/staff displaced by increased YCP spaces would most likely overflow to Warsaw Deck

- The faculty/staff parking in the Warsaw Deck was recently reduced from 219 to 163 spaces
- The reduction in faculty/staff parking at Warsaw Deck has parking in that area near capacity daily

Recommendation:

The Parking Advisory Committee recommended installing the requested additional YCP spaces on the condition that funding was approved to provide additional parking space for faculty and staff in the Warsaw Avenue Parking Deck to offset the loss of space in S Lot.

Item 2: Request from Business Services to review utilization of parallel parking on University Boulevard near the Arboretum

Overview: The shoulder of University Boulevard between the entrances to the Arboretum is signed as a no parking area but is periodically converted by Arboretum staff to overflow parking for the Arboretum. That stretch of University Boulevard is currently within the City of Harrisonburg’s jurisdiction but an agreement will be struck shortly that will give the university operational control of that area. The AVP of Business Services is asking if, given current conditions, this area can safely and effectively be utilized as parallel parking.

Relevant information:

- The posted speed limit on University Boulevard is 25 MPH but that is frequently exceeded by drivers
- When vehicles park on the shoulder near the entrances to the Arboretum they create line of sight issues
- The parallel parking is reportedly being utilized to circumvent the university’s parking permit fees
- Usage surveys of R5 Lot indicate there is sufficient space to meet parking demand for Arboretum guests
- The width of the shoulder is approximately 10 feet from the edge of the roadway to the embankment

Recommendation:

The Parking Advisory Committee recommended that parking on University Blvd. be discontinued, and that JMU Parking and Transit Services enforcement personnel enforce illegal parking in the signed area of University Blvd.

Additional agenda items from committee members:

None

5. Adjourn

Projected meeting schedule for 23/24 academic year (dates and times, if possible):

The Parking Advisory Committee typically meets once per semester. Bill Yates, Director of Parking and Transit Services, Rose Gray and John Skelly, Co-Chairpersons of the Parking Appeals Committee and Craig Short, Chairperson of the Parking Advisory Committee, receive suggestions for change through appeals and complaints. When there are sufficient agenda items to warrant a meeting, the group is called together. Therefore, I am unable to provide specific meeting dates. Meetings are typically held in October or November during the fall semester and again in March or April during the spring semester.