Minutes
TRANSPORTATION and PARKING COMMITTEE
September 16, 1996


The meeting of the Transportation and Parking Committee was called to order by acting chair, Widget Shannon.

Announcements: Widget expressed appreciation for those attending the meeting and coordinating agenda items, etc. She also announced the student representatives will be Lisa Furjanic and Ed Davis.

Approval of May 9, 1996 minutes: These minutes were tabled for approval until the next scheduled meeting.

Appointment of New Chair: From the motion of Carl Polan, which was seconded and unanimously agreed by those present, Pat Ballard serve as the new chair for the Transportation and Parking Committee.

Appointment of Vice-Chair: Upon motion of Pat Ballard, seconded and unanimously agreed by those present, Jean Eversole serve as the new vice chair for the Transportation and Parking Committee.

Secretary to the Committee: In a weak moment, Becky Brim agreed to continue doing the minutes of the monthly meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

CAGE signage: Jean Eversole shared some preliminary figures that it would cost approximately $6000 to have suitable signage in the Student Parking Lot (typically referred to as the CAGE lot). At present there are no budgetary funds available to meet this signage need. Curtis Lynch also stated that once this was done for the CAGE lot then most likely the students would require signage in Commuter Lots. Jean had passed information on to Gene Reed. (It was duly noted that Gene was absent due to attending a conference in conjunction with his honeymoon.)

NEW BUSINESS

Students as Summer Employees: Widget Shannon had received a note from Leo Bicknell who is a full-time student except during the summer when Mr. Bicknell is a full-time wage employee at CNS. Mr. Bicknell would like to obtain a Faculty/Staff parking permit. Mr. Bicknell states his case as being both a full-time wage employee and a full-time student who according to the Parking Regulations (as stated) "Faculty/Staff permits are issued to salaried (full or part-time) and wage employees of the university. After much discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Bicknell's status as a student overrides his position as an employee.
He is a student first (would not have had the position as CNS unless he was a student) and the parking regulations governing students should be applicable in this situation.

It was noted that about 400 graduate and 600 undergraduate students have this status during the summer and would substantially decrease parking availability.

Also brought to the Committee was the following concern: Typically Personnel Services issue Faculty/Staff IDs for summer graduate students who are hired by departments during the summer to continue work they were doing during the academic year. Evidently, abuse began when the F/S IDs from Personnel were not turned in and the graduate student would go to Parking and get F/S Parking Permits for the new academic year. One individual inquired as to why the Honor Code doesn't intervene here. Ann Spencer agreed to look into the number of faculty/staff ids issued during the summer and if it is necessary for Personnel Services to do so.

Part-Time Wage Employees and Lower Fees: This issue was also discussed at length. Curtis Lynch, Cindy Harrison, and Pat Ballard shared comments about the reasonable cost of the Parking Permits as compared to other institutions of higher learning. At present the fee structure and computer application programs are simplistic enough to meet the demands of the Parking Services' Office. Ann Spencer stated that the new HRIS payroll system may be capable of handling payroll deduction for the cost of parking permits for Wage Employees which would lessen the financial burden somewhat. Issues of basing cost of parking on salary would also bring on more problems as to if an individual pays more for parking in $$ $$, would that individual have a premium or reserved parking space. The current system gives all the same right to "hunt" and obtain parking according to availability.

Honor Students in Main Campbell and Hillcrest: Hillcrest and Main Campbell house graduate students and undergraduate honor students. Honor students have been receiving housing decals from the Office of Resident Education and commuter decals from Parking Services with no distinction being made as to student status. Graduate students are permitted to park in Litton Reeves lot and the undergraduate residents honor students would like to be able to have the same parking privileges as their graduate counterparts. Mr. Lynch said that this is being investigated and the current regulations may be changed shortly to eliminate this confusion.

INFORMATION SHARED:

Spring Road Closing: Mr. J. B. Sutphin stated that there are plans to re-open Spring Road in 1997.

Safety Concern: Discussed at length was the intersection of Washington Street and Duck Pond Drive and the entrance of vehicles exiting from the Cage Parking Lot. Speed limit is 25. Often times there is not the manpower to have a Parking Official directing the flow of traffic. Concern that there will be a serious accident. It was felt that using
four-way stop signs may bottleneck traffic at peak times.

Parking for Athletic Events: The Litton Reeves parking lot is impacted when there are athletic events at the stadium or in the coliseum. Carl Polan asked the question as to whether the Athletic revenue maintains the Litton Reeves parking lot or any compensation is made for the maintenance of parking from these athletic events. No one knew the answer to Carl’s question. At present employees are given notice that during specific times because of athletic events there is the possibility of being towed. It is understandable that the faculty and staff of Litton Reeves are concerned about this policy.

Parking Whining: Pat Ballard shared a note from one individual who was delighted with the Parking Permit fee structure here at Virginia Tech. This individual had paid considerably more at another institution of higher education before coming to Tech. Pat also had an article from the CT. The article was very positive in regard to the parking regulations and fees and the editorial implored individuals to stop “whining” about the parking at Virginia Tech.

Future Parking Needs at Virginia Tech: Ann Spencer asked that consideration be given for future discussion on parking needs. Specifically, the need for a parking deck, more commuter parking. What are the alternatives for parking at Tech. J. B. Sutphin asked that any future considerations also include motor cycle parking and well as bike parking.

Thank You: Jean Eversole asked that the minutes reflect our thanks and appreciation to Widget Shannon for serving as Chair of the Committee for the past year and for a doing an outstanding job in coordinating and communicating with the committee, responding to many e-mail messages on concerns of the faculty, staff and students.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Brim

CONFIRMED: The Transportation and Parking Committee will meet the first Monday of each month in 400D Burruss Hall from 4 to 5 p.m. Special thanks to Ann Spencer for scheduling this for the committee.