July 11, 2018  
Benson Hall, C115  
2:30PM  

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by Staff Council President, Marie Mize.

Roll Call, **Members in attendance**: Christine Ahern, Ian Armit, Charlie Bauder (via sub Jason Bedgood), Shirley Burgess, Debi Chandler, Kelly Cona, Hayley Cox, Melanie Crawford, Anjali Dougherty, Tamala Foreman, Macie Fouche, Jami Gilstrap, Elmer Gray (via sub Steve Gibson), Matt Hammons, Andrew Hanneman, Savannah Hembree, Angie Heusser, Pattie Holly, Stuart Ivy, Melissa Jackson, Kevin James, Laura Kelley, Brittney MacDonald, Heather Macon, Emma Mattox, Liz Phillips (via sub Melanie Piper), Jackie Mitchell (via sub Leah Jagger), Marie Mize, Mary Moore, Matt Mundy, Jacob Schindler, Ken Schroder, Amanda Shaw, Alec Shepherd, Kyla Sterling, Joy Strickland (via sub Michael Lewis), Kassie Suggs, Carly Surratt, Matt Weeks, Beth Woods (via sub Michael Hill), Scott Woodward

*Members absent*: JoHanna Biang, Danielle Free, Michele Griffin, Stefani Hilley

A quorum was present.

**Minutes**

The June 2018 minutes were approved unanimously.

**Guidelines – Responsibility of Staff Council Representatives**

Marie Mize, Staff Council President, provided council members with the following list of responsibilities:

- Bring forward to Staff Council any questions and/or concerns of your area group and staff members.
- Attend all scheduled and special meetings of the Staff Council general body. If you are unable to attend please send someone in your place.
- Provide constituents an agenda of the upcoming meeting to encourage their participation and interaction with the speaker.
- Share insights and information learned from monthly meeting, including minutes, with constituents.
- Represent all staff in a professional and courteous manner.
Committee and University Council Reports

No reports were made.

Old Business

Mary Moore, Staff Council Vice President, informed the group that 2018 meetings would be held in the Instructional Plaza, and advised the group that construction near Sanford Stadium will be ongoing during that August meeting so members should budget a little extra time.

Marie Mize welcomed the new members and returning members and informed the council that Don Walter from Parking and Transportation would attend the second half of the meeting to give the Council time to vote on vacant positions. She asked all new members to fill out the new member information sheet and said that committee assignments would happen at the next meeting.

She also asked members to state their name before addressing the council to help with accurate minute taking.

EITS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Marie informed the group that the EITS mentorship program has been expanded to all staff and that open enrollment in the program would be July 23 – August 27. Participants can sign up as either a mentor or protégé; Marie expressed the hope that Council members would sign up to serve as mentors. More information can be found on the website: https://eits.uga.edu/mentorship_program/mentorship_council/

ELECTIONS

Kelly Cona, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the three positions up for vote: one seat on the University Council HR Committee, one seat on the University Council Libraries Committee, and the Staff Council Recording Secretary. Kelly explained that the UC HR Committee has three open seats but they are staggered so only one was open at this time.

Kelly asked for nominations from the floor. Scott Woodward self-nominated for the UC Libraries Committee position.

Stuart Ivy was on the ballot for the UC HR Committee position and running uncontested. Kyla Sterling was on the ballot for the Recording Secretary position and running uncontested. Scott Woodward was running uncontested for the UC Libraries Committee position.

Kelly proposed that all three positions be voted on at once by acclamation since they were all uncontested. The Council voted unanimously in favor of all three candidates.

Kelly then reminded the Council that there would be another vote next month for the Staff Council Coordinator position and that she was be accepting nominations for that position immediately. Additionally, she would send an email announcement with the job description.

DON WALTER, DIRECTOR OF UGA TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING SERVICES & INTERIM ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY SERVICES

Marie asked for a motion to allow Staff Council guests to ask questions during Don’s presentation. The motion was seconded and the Council voted in favor.
Don introduced his colleague, Todd Berven, Associate Director of Transportation and Parking Services, and thanked the Council for inviting him to speak about upcoming changes to parking and transportation.

The first new project Don mentioned was a parking deck under the new STEM building, which would accommodate about 350 parking spaces. Construction on that project will likely begin in December or January.

There will also be a new Park & Ride lot near College Station Road with over 150 initial spaces. It will open on August 1st and they will continue to add spaces over the next two years until it totals approximately 850 spaces. Don explained that roughly 37% of the UGA community access campus from College Station Road, so they are hoping that this $10 permit lot will encourage more members of the community to park on the outskirts of campus. There will be UGA and Athens Transit bus services from the lot to campus and greenway trails with a bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists making the lot pedestrian friendly. Staff will have priority in this new lot.

Lot W06 has also been changed to a staff-priority lot, with over 400 staff members applying. This was at the suggestion of the Student Government Association, who hoped changing it from a student residential lot to a staff lot would allow more students to park in that lot in the evening when accessing Bolton Dining Hall, the MLC, or the Tate Student Center.

Another new project for Parking and Transportation is work on a grant for a fleet of 21 electric buses and an enlarged charging facility. Don said they would save about $350,000 a year on fuel and maintenance costs with electric buses. The university also has a special rate with Georgia Power when charging the buses at night which will help significantly reduce costs. The electric buses will also have exportable power which could be utilized in an emergency with a power outage; they are, essentially, mobile batteries. The cost savings associated with the electric bus fleet is especially important because there has not been a transit fee increase in four years.

Don explained that student transit fees allow staff and faculty to ride UGA and Athens' Transit buses for free, as well as free access to UGA's paratransit services. He said that about 9% of UGA's current ridership is staff.

Don also said that his department spends a lot of time focusing on safety, especially pedestrian safety and bus safety. The buses are all equipped with cameras.

Don announced that there be no increase in parking permit rates for the 11th year in a row. Don explained that the lack of rate increases is remarkable because Parking and Transportation Services has lost a significant amount of money over the years on the maintenance costs associated with 11 parking decks that all have different repair needs. Don gave an example of an employee who wanted to purchase a monthly permit in a visitor’s-only deck. Don asked the employee if he charged him what the space in that deck cost UGA, would he pay it? While most agreeable at first, upon being quoted $240 per month, he declined.

He said Parking and Transportation has been able to save money by becoming more efficient by reducing staffing in decks and installing motion-sensor, LED lighting. They also raised parking costs for event parking (Performing Arts, sporting events, etc.) which has brought in around $3 million a year.

Don explained that another change is the shift to license plate recognition in the parking decks and lots, instead of relying on gates, which are costly to maintain. They are also working on implementing space counting technology in the decks so visitors will know if a deck is full. Pay stations installed in decks and lots will also help reduce personnel costs and allow users to add time to the meter with a mobile app. When units, like the Special Collections Library, have events they will be able to provide visitors with a code to enter at the pay station.
He explained that his department is focused on updated the technology in the decks rather than in the lots because the lots often become building sites. Overall, the university is attempting to move parking away from the center of campus, so it makes fiscal sense to invest in decks instead of lots.

Ian Armit, Council Member, asked how Parking Services will be able to monitor for cars parked illegally in the decks that do not have gates. Don answered that parking services drives through the decks and scans license plates to issue tickets. When a license plate isn’t visible—for instance, if the car backed into the spot—Parking Services will get out of the car to check the plate. Permit holders will register their license plate with Parking Services.

Joseph Carter, a guest, asked what parking services did with the $2.3M profit made in 2017. Don answered that any profit is invested back into future projects such as the STEM deck and the new park and ride lot. All the money from Parking & Transportation stays within Parking & Transportation.

Mary Moore asked if Parking and Transportation was still committed to the Alternative Transportation Program (ATP), which allows community members who carpool or use public transportation to park on campus for free (11 times a year for carpoolers, 22 times a year for pedestrians, bikers, bus riders, etc.). Don answered that they are committed to retaining the program, but that it has a high level of abuse, especially from students. He said that additionally the program creates problems because it is difficult to track/predict how many extra cars will be parked in decks on a given day—people tend to use the passes when it rains. Mary emphasized that this program is especially important to the staff who rely on it. Don said they welcome feedback on how to make the program more efficient.

Alex Hill, a guest, asked about implementing a sliding scale for parking permit rates based on factors like income level and proximity to campus. Don said that wasn’t being considered, because when other institutions implemented sliding scale for proximity, people would lie about their addresses. He also said that permit fees help reduce demand for parking spaces, which is important because the campus only has 18,000 spaces and needs to meet the needs of 37,000 students and 11,000 faculty and staff. Don stated that the fees are reasonably priced, especially considering the option of the $10 park and ride lots. He said many people are willing to pay extra for the convenience of a closer lot regardless of income level, even if they are making a lower income level. He noted that many people who make a relatively lower income use the $40 lots and that it’s a matter of convenience.

Ken Schroder, Council Member, suggested that those lower income members of the UGA community may hold second jobs and that parking in a closer lot allows them to get to that second job in a timely manner.

Shirley Burgess, Council Member, asked for Don’s input on hit and runs in lots and decks and said that it was a rising problem on campus. Don responded that those matters should go through UGA’s police department and that if the police department reports an area with recurring problems a camera could be installed; at this point he didn’t have any specific data on hit and runs.

Jami Gilstrap, Council Member, mentioned that Park and Ride lots are not serviced as frequently by buses during the intersession bus schedule making it difficult for staff to rely on buses for daily transportation. Don acknowledged that they needed to work on that. She also mentioned a concern about DP passes being used inappropriately in closed surface lots, like N04.

Matt Weeks, Council Member, raised a question about transitioning to license plate recognition and how spaces might be taken up by people illegally parked in the lot, leaving no room for permit holders. Don said that violators will be ticketed and that the tickets will serve as a deterrent. He also explained that permit holders can register rental cars or new cars on the Parking Services website so that they will not get ticketed if they aren’t driving their regular vehicle.

Amanda Shaw, Council Member, revisited the sliding scale permit fee question, and asked if that was being discussed at parking services. Don said it was not being discussed.
Steve Gibson, Council Member, asked if there was an avenue for staff to voice their concerns about matters related to parking. Don answered that there have been focus groups in the past and that’s something he’s open to revisiting. Laura Kelley, Council Member, reminded the group that she represents staff on the UC Facilities Committee and she encouraged staff members to bring issues to her attention.

Kyla Sterling, Council Member, asked Don to revisit the issue of the intersession bus schedule and asked if a focus group might be formed around that issue since having more reliable bus transportation during the intersession schedule would encourage staff to use that service. Don reminded the group that Athens Transit operates bus schedules that aren’t affected by the semester schedule. Kyla pointed out that those only run once an hour.

Debi Chandler, Council Parliamentarian, asked Don to consider that some staff need to be at work before 8:00am and that the bus schedule does not start early enough to accommodate those staff members. Don said that they have tracked early morning bus use and that not enough people are using the service.

Stuart Ivy, Council Member, asked for information about paratransit services. Don explained that it’s a service primarily used by students, but that staff can register for it on the Disability Resource Center webpage. There is an on-demand service for short term disabilities.

Melissa Jackson, Council Member, asked about the effectiveness of flashing crosswalk signs and who makes decisions about where those are placed. Don responded that outside consultants have made recommendations along with the University Architects’ Office. Video footage from UGA buses and reports from UGA police also inform those decisions.

Don clarified that ATP permits are good for an entire day, not just one use on a particular day. For example, if an employee drove to campus and parked, but left campus for an appointment and needed to park again, that would be considered one use of the ATP permit rather than two uses.

Matt Hammond, Council Member, asked how long electric buses could hold a charge. Don said they will easily make it an entire day.

Mary Moore asked when the electric buses will be on campus. Don said that the first buses in the eclectic bus fleet would hopefully be on campus around January, 2019, with several buses being added to the fleet each month.

Pattie Holly, Council Member, asked about the lighting in the new Park and Ride lot. Don explained that the new lighting will not be installed until September, and until it is completed the lot would close at dusk for safety reasons.

**Old Business**

Committee formation was tabled until the August meeting.

**Adjournment**

Marie Mize thanked the Council’s visitors and guests and the formal meeting was adjourned at 3:38pm.

The next Staff Council Executive Committee meeting is 3:30 pm on Tuesday, July 24, 2018. Location TBD.

The next Staff Council meeting is 2:30 pm Wednesday, August 1, 2018 in Instructional Plaza room N106.