

TSAC Minutes
February 3, 2016

Present:

Ms. Marisa Biondi (Ashley Knorr)
Mr. Mike Caruso
Mr. Ralph Davila
Mr. Joe Dillard
Mr. David Glockzin
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Mr. Peter Lange
Ms. Robbie Lukeman
Dr. Clint Magill
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Ms. Flora Reeves
Ms. Veronica Sprayberry
Dr. Bob Strawser
Ms. Hannah Wimberly
Ms. Deborah Wright
Mr. Wayne Beckerman

Guests:

Mr. Travis Mendoza
Ms. Madeline Dillard
Ms. Melissa Maraj
Ms. Anne LeGare
Ms. Therese Kucera
Ms. Debbie Hoffman

Absent:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Dr. Margaret Hobson
Dr. C.J. Woods
Dr. Eleanor Green
Mr. Zach Carlson
Dr. Fuller Bazer

1. Dr. Angie Hill Price opened the meeting and asked everyone to review the minutes. Ms. Flora Reeves motioned to approve the minutes; Dr. Bob Strawser seconded and all approved.
2. Mr. Peter Lange welcomed everyone and introduced Ashley Knorr, who is representing the Graduate Student Council on behalf of Ms. Marissa Bondi for the rest of the spring term.

2.1 Mr. Lange gave an update on the Cain Garage, and reported the piers are being drilled, the first tower crane has been erected, with the second to follow next week. It should have 1,000 parking spaces by September 2016 and be finished by October 2016.

2.1.1 Ms. Ashley Knorr asked what type of parking Cain would accommodate, and Mr. Lange said it would be comparable to University Center Garage. Game Day parking rules would apply to this garage.

2.1.2 Mr. Mike Caruso asked if there is an official name for the new Cain building yet, and Mr. Lange said he is hearing that they are staying with "Cain." They are also incorporating the eagle statue and some historical plaques into their planning for the new building.

2.1.3 Mr. Lange said they have not signed the final land lease on the hotel. They are in the process of planning the space needs for the building. Transportation Services offices are included in about 17,000 square feet of the plan. The total square footage is at about 120,000 square feet now, and may flex up or down, depending on the final cost per square foot figures.

2.2 Mr. Lange gave an update about the new Campus Master Plan. Lilia Gonzales and Dean Jorge Vanegas are co-chairs of the effort, under the guidance of an executive committee made up of the President, Vice President for Finance and Administration and the Provost. The plan emphasizes the importance of a pedestrian-friendly campus, which removes parking from the center of campus, and other initiatives. Transportation Services has been supplying information and updates to the plan. Another, separate mobility study is being conducted by TTI for the Bryan-College Station community.

3. Ms. Therese Kucera mentioned that citation collections and using a collections agency was an open item from the previous TSAC meeting and asked if there were any further questions. See: <http://transport.tamu.edu/Media/Presentations/TSAC/2015/TSACCitationCollections.pdf>

3.1 Dr. Hill Price asked if there were any unintended consequences reported from other universities after using collection agencies. Ms. Kucera reported that the University of Texas at San Antonio has not experienced any unintended consequences, and it has gone very smoothly. The University of Texas at Austin's only issue was citations that were marked for transfer in the evening and exported the next morning had sometimes already been paid by the customer the night before. All it took was an e-mail to the collection agency alerting them the citation had been paid. Neither university spoke of any angry or upset customers as a result of using collections agencies. Ms. Kucera pointed out that

part of our contact with the collections agency would state that we do not want delinquent accounts forwarded to credit reporting agencies.

3.2 Mr. Wayne Beckerman asked for clarification on whose fines would be referred to collections agencies. Ms. Kucera said it would not be for current students, as their charges are referred to the University for billing to their student accounts.

3.3 Dr. Hill Price asked for the sake of clarity if the committee could be provided a paragraph on exactly what we are approving concerning using a collections agency. She suggested that the wording should coincide with whatever is being conveyed to the public by the website.

3.3.1 Ms. Debbie Hoffmann suggested that we vote on it electronically and all agreed to voting in that manner.

4. Ms. Hoffmann gave an update from the last TSAC meeting about vehicle booting. The goal is to minimize towing and increase compliance through the “advertising” of booting. At the past meeting, the different methods and delivery options of booting were discussed. The committee agreed that the most attractive option was using an outside vendor. Upon further research, however, this is a much more costly course of action. Transportation Services will have to negotiate and go through a Request for Proposal process and get back to the committee with the options available.
5. Ms. Kucera introduced the discussion of Citation Escalation. She showed a presentation of what other universities are doing, some TAMU citation statistics, and proposed action and communications plans.
<http://transport.tamu.edu/About/TSAC/files/presentations/2016/CitationEscalations.pdf>

5.1 Mr. Lange made the point that the overarching theme we are seeing concerning citation collections, booting, and citation escalation is that our policies and fine structures are in line with other university policies and fine structures across the country and the changes we are suggesting are targeted to gain additional compliance.

5.2 Ms. Kucera reiterated that a primary goal of the citation escalation plan is to address repeat offenders. There was some discussion, questions and answers about who the repeat offenders were and how to reach them with messaging. Ms. Kucera said the majority of them are permit

holders parking in unauthorized areas. An important aspect of the plan is citation accumulation would be reset every academic year.

5.2.1 Dr. Hill Price asked the student representatives what could be done to get the word out to students. Mr. Wayne Beckerman said he could make sure it gets out over social media.

5.2.2 Ms. Kucera explained again how Transportation Services reaches out using a 1-Day, 7-Day, and 15-Day letter. The fine escalates from \$30 to \$40 by the time the 15-Day letter is sent. Collection rates improved after incremental notices were sent. The customer's monthly statement already states the account may be referred to a collections department.

5.2.3 Mr. Robert Pottberg asked if once a fine is referred to student billing if it clears the citation notification system. Ms. Kucera affirmed that it did.

5.2.4 Mr. Beckerman suggested sending a letter to the offender's permanent residence after 5 tickets. Ms. Kucera said that the tow letter goes to the owner of the vehicle, as the permanent address is not a consistent method to convey the message.

5.2.4.1 Mr. Beckerman suggested that perhaps the information could be communicated to parents at the New Student Conference. Ms. Kucera responded that while that is a good idea, perhaps a better way to communicate the policy would be to include it on the permit insert and at the Transportation Services website.

5.3 Mr. Joe Dillard asked how the handicapped spaces are monitored. Ms. Kucera said that Transportation Services enforcement did not have the authority to challenge handicapped permits. They are looking for two things, a valid TAMU permit and a handicapped placard. Only the University Police Department (UPD) can challenge the permits. We are looking at raising fines on those who are violating handicapped parking rules.

5.3.1 Dr. Hill Price suggested that Transportation Services coordinate with UPD to do an enforcement sweep of frequently violated lots. Mr. Lange said that was something we could do.

6. Ms. Madeline Dillard, Transit Services Unit, Transportation Services, presented the policy for naming and renaming bus routes, and recommended four names to be brought to the different constituent groups. See presentation:
<http://transport.tamu.edu/About/TSAC/files/presentations/2016/BusRouteNamingandRenaming.pdf>

6.1 Concerning the proposed route name "Midnight Yell," Mr. Caruso made the point that it might be confusing to have two routes with the word "Yell" in them, as there is already a route called "Yell Practice."

6.2 The committee agreed that the name "Vet School" made sense, because the route goes to the Vet School.

6.3 All agreed to put the four names forward for consideration by the constituent groups.

7. Mr. Lange mentioned that a renovation plan for Parking Lots 16 and 54 was working through the Council for the Built Environment process. It will be a starting agenda item at our next meeting.
8. Dr. Hill Price asked if we could have a small reinforcement briefing about slow moving vehicles in consideration of a "pedestrian-friendly" campus at the next TSAC meeting.

8.1 Mr. Lange said that was a good point, and perhaps we could follow Ohio State's lead in having a "Declarative Statement" about prioritization of pedestrians, transit, motorized vehicles and carts. Perhaps it could also be something included in the Campus Master Plan.

8.2 Mr. Dillard made the point that there needs to be an enforcement piece with the policy.

9. Mr. Lange wrapped up the meeting at 1:05 pm.

The next TSAC meeting will be March 2, 2016, Koldus 110-111.