TPAC Minutes

September 16, 2011

I. Approval Item- Election of Officers
   A. Chair Person- Leslie Pruski
   B. Vice Chair Person- Emmanuel Papadakis

II. Open Forum
   Students address the committee with concerns and ideals regarding campus parking and bus service.
   A. Incentives for students to use shuttle buses.
   B. Idea proposed to rent from Fingers for use of their parking lot. It was explained that there may be liabilities, and it may be costly. Plus there is still room at ERP.
   C. Swiping to keep track of students use does not work on all buses, i.e. the ERP Express bus, or on the small white buses.
   D. Bus study in progress. Katrina X, a student working for University Services has been monitoring the bus service. She reported that at peak times she’s had to wait for a later bus because the ones in front were full.
   E. Rex Mann- lives in Bayou oaks and was required to buy an Economy permit. When he lived at Cullen Oaks last semester he said he did not have to. Mr. Browand responded at Economy permits have been required at all partnered housing locations for about 5 years now.
   F. Bus 305 was reported to have air conditioner leakage.
   G. Idea proposed to encourage carpooling. Idea was to rope off spots reserved for carpoolers.
   H. Information booth at Entrance 1- the employee was not helpful.

III. Approval of August Meeting Minutes
   A. Revision to g. under Fall Parking Service Plan. Change complete to completed.
   B. Minutes were approved with revision.
   C. This has been revised and reposted.

IV. Information Items
   A. Campus Construction Discussion- Spencer Moore
      Mr. Moore gave an update on campus construction, both present and future.
      1. Stadium Garage- adds about 2,300 parking spots. To be completed between May 2012.
      2. Cougar Place will be replaced by an 800 bed complex. Construction will begin Spring 2012 with a completion date of August 2013.
      3. West Dining Hall construction will begin late Fall of 2011 and be completed by Fall 2012.
      4. Science and Teaching Building is complete. (Fleming addition)
      5. SR1 Building is under construction, adding safety components.
6. Cougar Village 2 will be built and completed by August 2013. It will be a mirror image of Cougar Village.

7. Garage is being planned for the site that is currently parking lot 1A across from Moody Towers. To be completed by August 2013. Will provide between 1,500 and 2,000 spots.

8. Health and Biomedical Science Building is under construction and scheduled to be opened Fall 2012. Talks are under way for a new Pharmacy building adjacent to the Bio-Med building.

9. UC renovations will start Spring 2012 with completion schedule for Fall 2013.

10. Sidewalk safety. More next meeting.


12. Concern shown from committee members that the projects should help pay for parking that is lost due to construction.

B. Pedestrian Crossing on Calhoun- Keith Ivy

Mr. Ivy updated the committee on his talks with the City of Houston regarding the pedestrian crossing on Calhoun near Optometry.

1. The city does not promote mid-block crossing.

2. The road belongs to the city of Houston, not the university. The city denied Mr. Ivy’s request for reflectors. He also suggested increasing signage, and repainting the road stripes. The road stripes were the only thing approved.

3. Mr. Ivy suggested that it be discussed with OGC but it is not an OGC issue. It needs to be handled through Facilities and Safety.

4. Committee motioned to create a proposal to send to the appropriate group. Dr. Papadakis and DR. Fox will create a draft.

5. Idea to add yellow flashing lights like the ones at Melcher Hall.

6. Issue the bridge-way installed by PTS was brought up because it created a hazardous pedestrian crossing. Mr. Browand agreed to remove the bridge.

7. Suggestion to remove misleading signs and reduce the speed limit.

C. TAMU Peer Review- Bob Browand

1. PTS is working on issuing warning citation for first time offenders of failure to display a permit. This will be done using the handheld devices for citation issuing.

2. PTS is working on a procedure where pictures will be taken of all parking violations. These pictures will then be made available to the traffic court during appeal hearings.

D. Discussion of Shuttle Bus study, methodology & introduction of the team

1. Emily has formed the Shuttle Bus and Transportation Enhancement Project team with a variety of different staff members. This committee will report back to TPAC on their findings as well as taking any suggestions from TPAC.
2. The team’s first objective is to access data stored in the NextBus system.
3. Once data is obtained it will be used to evaluate the current routes and times.
4. During the discussion the committee brought up several concerns regards the shuttle operation.
   i. Campus Loop driver not taking student to ERP after 8PM.
   ii. Bus 308 on the Oak Satellite- complaints of the driver getting off and taking a 15 minute personal call while students were waiting on the bus. This was witnessed personally by a committee member.
   iii. Suggestion to add signs for where students can make complaints about the driver to be put either outside the buses, or inside the buses. Similar to the “how’s my driving?” signs.
   iv. Explained that there is a website posted inside the buses for an online survey about student’s bus ride experiences. Esmeralda- will look at the signs to see if anything needs to be changed.
   v. Any serious complaints need to be reported immediately through direct email to Paul Lozano.
   vi. Suggestion to have the drivers names on a sign displayed at the front of the bus so students can see it when they step on the bus. Similar to the signs that METRO uses.
   vii. Mention of whether or not we can audit the drivers records.

E. Appeals Policy Update
   1. New rates and discounts are now programmed in the handhelds. Students with citations will receive an email as well as be able to see on the citation the discounts for paying early.
   2. There is also a link on the website that tells you these discounts.
   3. Contacted courts, for the appeal process. Between 30-35 members split into mini courts, with a certain number of faculty, staff, and students.
   4. Suggestion to add reminder emails for paying a citation.
   5. Will be put on the agenda for next time.

F. Stadium Garage Update
   1. Photos of the construction were shown.
   2. Garage will hold about 2300 vehicles. First floor will be visitors, second floor will be faculty and staff, and third and fourth floors will be for students.
   3. There will be 2 entrances for visitors, 2 entrances for faculty and staff, and 3 entrances for students.
   4. Skyline is preserved to allow visitors to see downtown from the stadium.
   5. The garage will include a C-Store, Bookstore, Parking customer service center, and a Taco Cabana.
   6. There was concern from some NSM faculty members that the floors of the garage were too thin. Mr. Browand explained that there is a 3 inch topping layer that still needs to be poured. This will give the floors about 6 inches of thickness.
   7. There is still a lot of work to be done including lights, and fire safety components.
8. There will be a lane closure on Cullen near UH Entrance 14 over the winter break to tie into the City’s storm drains.
9. There is a webcam on the Plant Ops website so you can see the construction.
10. The price for the permits will be the same as the other garages.
11. Set to open in April or May of 2012.

G. First two weeks of school Update
   1. Went better than expected.
   2. All lots are full.
   3. ERP had about 200-300 cars the first day, and about 600 the second day. There are a lot of spaces still available.
   4. Step up marketing to get people to park out at ERP.
   5. Move-in went well. A lot of staff was able to help out. Only a few problems with the staging areas, but over all went well.

H. First Home UH Football Game Update
   1. First time Parking and Transportation did their own event parking in the garages.
   2. The East garage did not do well, only about 10-15 cars.
   3. The Welcome Center garage had about 160 cars, at 10 dollars a car.
   4. Recommendation to work with the city to have the signs telling people how to get to the East garage.
   5. Athletics mans all other event lots.
   6. People who have classes on Saturdays complained about the parking issues. They need to plan ahead where to park. Emails were sent out before the game.
   7. Donor lots do not allow people with parking permits, cash lots do, so these people who come to campus not for the game were re-directed to these lots. (specifically talked about lot 16B)
   8. Question by Rex- tailgating- no permits being given for tailgating like in the past years. Bob- that would be an issue for athletics.

I. YTD Numbers Update
   1. 4th quarter report. Given to members of the committee (power point).
   2. Revenue up 8.6% from 2010.
   3. Expenditures up 14% over last year. Assumed because of hiring new staff and shuttle bus increase.
   4. Fund equity- last year we spent 57% (3 million) towards debt services, 27% to projects, and 16% on support services.
   5. Spending less than budgeted for.
   6. Citations issuance increased. Vehicle towing increased 22%.
   7. Hertz on Demand membership increased 77% in August.
   8. Permit Sales are up 2% over prior year.
   9. List of accomplishments shown.

V. Adjourn
   A. Suggestion to next time change the format of the agenda to old business first, and then new business.
   B. Suggestion to limit the time allowed for the open forum.
C. Asked for the October meeting to be moved to October 28th due to Homecoming weekend.