Meeting Minutes
Graduate Student Senate Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 12, 2018
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Location: Clemson University Student Senate Chambers
Attendees: Senators and general public

1. Call to Order—Ryan DeFever, Senate President Pro-Tempore

Ryan calls the meeting to order at 8:03PM

2. Call of the Roll

Smriti calls the roll! Many names remain unanswered. The room is tense – will we hit our quorum? It is unclear… Onto the E names… still roughly 50% remain silent. “Geller, Glyder, Green” the roll continues. After several minutes, we finally reach “Sherwood”, the handsomest and most important of all senators. Finally, the roll call is complete. ROLL CALL! Final tally: 40. Just made quorum – close call.

3. Approval of the Minutes for March 29, 2018

Ryan passes the minutes, with no amendments and no objections.

4. Special Guest(s)

   a. Dan Hoffman—Director, Parking and Transportation Services

Several senators applause as Dan takes the stage! He always enjoys talking to us.

“This is one of the best years that we’ve had! We love data and measure a ton of stuff. Utilization this year is typically measured in October. We are basically saturated with 90% utilization (last year had 97% utilization.) Park and ride is largely responsible for the drop. IT’s alleviated a lot of the pressure on the main campus lots. By design, a lot of parking is moving to the periphery of campus. Most of what’s moved is going to be employee parking.

Let’s go over just a few things:

- Grad student parking is popular, 3:30pm is really the time that lots open up for grad students.
- LEV program that was endorsed by GSG still hasn’t gotten off the ground.
- Still looking at getting LEV spaces inside commuter lots.
- A lot of data goes into demand projections
- We have a citation forgiveness program!!! Use it!
- Clemson has a Zipcar program. 250 “kids” have used it, and reduced the number of permits sold.
- Bikeshare program is something that exists.
- My.clemson is going to get push notifications!

- Not too many commuter spaces have been added this year. The reason is, CORE campus had no parking assigned to it when it was built. Huh.
- Some west resident spaces have been converted to commuters.
- “Any valid permit” spots have been reduced by 57 spots this past year.
- Enrollment is expected to continue to increase over time. We must deal with that.
- Number of permits sold increases are aligned with population increases.
- Douthit Hills comes online next year, so lots more cars. Probably 58% residents will bring cars.
- We were very lucky this year, in that a 4.8% enrollment increase happened. It was supposed to be 2%. But, our adjustment to permit sales helped mitigate this. And, new downtown housing helped with this.
- The ratio of commuter permits per space is 1.83.
- Staff ratio is 1.63.
- We’re at an all-time high in spaces.
- We have a surplus of 400 spots this year – nobody should complain about not enough parking
- We need about 1,100 more spaces, we’re planning to build about 1,300 spaces.
- Kite Hill might eventually be a parking lot / transit hub with buses straight to the library.
- We might move a bunch of resident parking to the far away parking spaces

- Lots of construction all over the place. Soon. Highway 93 (north of campus, to downtown) will be under construction in the next week. This is to bolster the utility infrastructure.
- The Sikes parking lot will basically be closed for a lot of this. The one-way towards the president’s house will become two-way.

- Transit fees: These fund all the transit services that Clemson runs.
- Last year, we broke-even, but then we had to readjust the Catbus service. The city of Clemson raised the Catbus rates a lot. Shoot! Now we’ve got a deficit.
- We have a new service provider for the Greenville route! That’ll start in the fall. Catbus did not win the bid – weren’t even close.
- So, fees have been requested for approval. We might raise fees to help us get over this deficit.
- Parking is now going to subsidize transit.
- 6 years ago, we had 3 tiger transit buses. Now we have 21!

- Park-and-ride has been huge! About 800 permits were sold. Woohoo! We’re really happy that that happened to reduce congestion.
- We trialed a cross-campus connect bus. Ridership is pretty light.

- 7 buses are on the red route! And we shifted to 15 minute intervals. BUT, ridership is going down! Super lame – now we’re over capacity.
- We can probably scale-back from 11am to 2pm.
- Less people are using it because new apartments downtown! BUS-TED.

- We’re trying to incentivize walking to reduce demand.
- I wish we did not need to write citations. It’s only 13% of our revenue. It’s only to protect the rights of the permit-holders.
- So, we’ve got a citation forgiveness program. (31% pass rate on the test.)
- People with permits on the grass do not get tickets at the start of the year. Only warnings. (This year, under control in about 2 weeks.)

[Editor’s note: it is now 8:48PM]

- Bike share is a thing! 672 members! More of an on-campus program.
- There’s a lot of stations around campus.

- My.clemson is getting push notification! Regarding road closures, parking spaces, bus re-routing!
- This will be the first university in the country to do this!
- With that, any questions?”

The senate explodes in applause!

Senator Geller: “We appreciate the 15 minute bus on the red route! Don’t take it away! As graduate students, we need to get to campus, particularly between 11am-2pm”

Dan: “Yes, that’s why we went and bought all these buses! We’ll look into this.”

Senator Blood: “Very informative presentation! So, you’re taking away a lot of green spots. Are you doing impervious surfaces?”

Dan: “You’re gonna see a lot of gravel and other permeable surfaces to help out. Definitely Kite Hill. We build great parking lots.”

Senator Beadle: “Is there a reason why there’s no airport shuttles to Atlanta?”

Dan: “Traffic is terrible, we can’t stay on schedule. So we don’t want to go there.”

Senator Gardner: “Are you planning to offer the employee permits to grad students over the summer?”

Dan: “Yes, we do that every year.”

Senator Gardner: “Can students park electric cars on campus?”

Dan: “Contact my office directly and we’ll make it work out.”

Senator Jain: “Do we have anything planned for Tiger Transit to University Center of Greenville?”

Dan: “Yes, you can get there! There’s a route – look on the website”

Senator Bruner: “You mentioned last year, the parking garage thing. What is Clemson’s perspective on that?”

Dan: “Two things. It costs a lot and we don’t know where it’d go. First, we need to reduce demand. Surface parking is $6k a space, and a garage is $26k per space. So, permit fees would have to increase to $600 or $700 a spot. We don’t want to do that. But, at some point, we’ll have to do it eventually. Not for 5-6 years.”
Senator Ehlert: “Environmental impact. What about the heat sink of dark asphalt? Can we do coverings / PV panels?”

Dan: “There is a project right now for covered parking for the R-3 lot – working with Duke to get solar panels up there.”

Senator Ehlert: “If we’re moving parking farther away, what about ADA / accessible spaces?”

Dan: “That was my biggest concern when we started planning. We’re definitely mindful of that and we’ll do everything we can to preserve ADA spaces”

Senator Odenwieder: “Have you done a cost comparison of a parking garage vs the shuttles?”

Dan: “Yes, shuttles are still cheaper. I don’t have the numbers in front of me.”

Senator Fultz Wilkes: “With moving all the parking out, are there going to be sidewalks or paths across 76?”

Dan: “No, I won’t put a sidewalk across 76. We’ll use transit.”

Senator DeFever: “With that, we’ll wrap it up!”

Senate applauds respectfully.

Senator DeFever: “With that, Senator Glyder!”

b. Nicklaus Glyder—Senator

“The workshop is happening! April 20th, 5:00pm. It’s in the “bits-and-pieces” lab. We’ll support 14 students. Smart peeps will be running the workshop. We have buy-in from faculty that’ll be supervising us. We’ll be working with Arduinos, which are the size of a credit card. And we bought a lot of LEDs and other stuff. We’ll connect the thing to your computer and play with a breadboard [editor’s note: This is a device that you can stick LEDs in and other electronic components to prototype circuits]. We’re really excited about it. Any questions?”

[editor’s note: there was a question regarding how it was advertised, though the editor was busy consuming a few all-natural fruit strips and a snack size Twix.]

Senator Glyder: “We sent it out to the Makerspace listserv, so it reached about 2,000 students! People signed up really fast.”

Senator Davis: “How will future workshops be advertised?”

Senator Glyder: “I don’t know. I won’t be here next year. It’ll be handed over to the Makerspace people.”

5. President’s Report—Courtney Allen, Graduate Student Body President

President is not in attendance.

6. Executive Reports

Research initiatives: “GRADS went super well! We had a lot of people participate. Unfortunately, most of the participants are also presenters. We need to work on that in the future. Winners were announced!”

7. Steering Reports
Senator Mann: “I processed summer awards. It was my last time! We had ~130 applications, we awarded about 50 grants. We expect to be able to hand out a few more based on leftover spring funding. This is the first year that PEGAS has had its own account, so we can actually track this!”

Senator Sherwood: “We had a final internal audit meeting, it went well!”

b. Activities Committee—Amaris Tejada, Chair

c. Finance Committee—Elaine Sotherden, Chair

Senator Sotherden: “We have one last Finance Committee meeting.”

d. Rules and Procedures Committee—Beth Solomon, Chair

Not present

8. Old Business

No old business

9. New Business

No new business

10. Other Announcements and Open Remarks

“We’re hosting a plant sciences symposium in the Watt center! It’s super cool and everyone should come!”

“This is an international symposium that’s sponsored by outside people. We have 6 speakers, 5 are widely known. Cornell, Iowa State, all over the country. It’s a one day event, from breakfast to evening.”

Visit Cuips.com

All day Friday, from 8am-5pm

Senator Anderson: “Biosystems are selling pint glasses! So you can contact me if you want to get drunk over the summer.”

Sergeant at Arms: “This is basically our last meeting, so clean the table of snacks!”

11. Good of the Senate

Senator DeFever: “RSVP for the end of the year party! If you have any ideas on how to increase GRADS attendance, talk to the research people. I don’t think I have anything else to present.”