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New Business

**TO:** Faculty Senate  
**FROM:** Faculty Welfare Committee  
**DATE:** 24 February 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed increase in fees for parking permits

Prior to his January appearance before the Faculty Senate, Associate Vice Chancellor Koch met with the Faculty Welfare Committee to inform the committee of a proposed policy change to the waiting list for those seeking to purchase an "A" permit and of a proposed increase in fees for parking permits that is scheduled to take place in July 2009.

Since that time, it has become apparent to members of the Faculty Welfare Committee that university employees face the probability of no raises in the coming year, as well as the probability of significant changes in the costs associated with health care: increases in co-payments, deductibles, coinsurance maximums, and costs of medications and medical supplies for all employees; and increases in payment for coverage of dependents for employees insuring others.

Moreover, in his presentation before the Faculty Welfare Committee, Mr. Koch indicated that the fee change was needed in order to increase the money in the Parking Reserves; under a scenario that the fee increase would be implemented over a two-year period (with each year's increase being 50% of the total amount), in the first year (FY 09/10) the amount added to the Reserves would be \$227,851, while \$405,271 would be added in subsequent years. The five-year financial plan presented by Mr. Koch, however, shows a transfer of over \$200,000 in 09/10 for "Police/Admin. Fees"—an expenditure that apparently was initiated for FY 08/09.

The Faculty Welfare Committee is still unclear as to *why* fees from parking permits are now being diverted to "Police/Admin. Fees"; clearly, if those fees were not being re-allocated, the current fee structure would be sufficient to fund most of the projected increase in Parking Reserves for the coming fiscal year.

A possible use of the Parking Reserves that Mr. Koch cited is implementation of planning for a Parking Deck in FY 11/12, with construction beginning in FY12/13. Yet, it is unclear where such a Parking Deck would be located, who would use it, and what the total construction costs would be. Given the severity of the current financial crisis, the Faculty Welfare Committee believes that a Parking Deck should be very low on any prioritized list of needed university construction.

In sum, university employees already face increased health costs in the coming year and no increase in their salaries; yet, the possible uses of funds raised by an increase in fees for parking permits are not well-defined or clearly justified.

Accordingly, the Faculty Welfare Committee strongly recommends that the Parking and Transportation Committee and the university's administration reconsider its plans to increase the fees for parking permits for the coming two academic years.