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Staff Council Meeting : 2004 : 02 : 18

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USPS SENATE MEETING
February 18, 2004

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, David Brodosi, at 10:00 a.m.

David introduced Abdul Nasser, Assoc. VP of Administration & Finance, who wanted to speak to us about proposed parking changes. He said that there were three proposed changes that he will recommend to the Campus Board:

- (1) No Gold spaces for students.
- (2) Gold spaces will become Green spaces after 5:30 p.m.
- (3) There will not be an increase in rates of 10% each year. So, the permit price will remain the same. However, there will be a sales tax added to the permit price (7%). If you have this deducted from your paycheck, the sales tax will be pre-taxed.

He also said that the administration is still assessing how many Gold spaces there should be. At present, there are a total of about 1,000 parking spaces. (Green and gold)

The meeting was then open to discussion.

It was stated that the Fountain Inn demolition site will become a temporary parking lot giving us more parking spaces. He said that this will be available by the end of this month. He praised the people who worked on this project to get the building down so quickly. There will be approximately 105-120 parking spaces there.

In regard to a future parking garage, Mr. Nasser said that it wasn't yet determined what the final cost would be, but that it was very expensive. He said that one parking space in a garage would cost an estimated \$10,000 (for design and build). He said that he still doesn't have a solution on how to pay all the costs. We could obtain a bond.

Security in the parking garage was questioned. Some women are apprehensive about being in a garage or enclosed space. Our Police Officer, Sgt. Jon Wierzbowski, said that a garage would be much safer and have more security like guards and cameras than parking lots. It was also mentioned that we have a SAFE team to give students and staff rides to and from their cars. Mr. Nasser said that the University is hiring three consultants for (a) design, (b) construction, and (c) a consultant who specializes in traffic flow and security.

The issue of parking meters on the street was brought up. Mr. Nasser said that the City has to make a decision on this. Also, we should remember that a cruise ship is coming in here, too, (in June) which will affect parking.

The issue of the Central Lawn project came up. Mr. Nasser said that the University wants to have a pedestrian campus, which means that street parking will change. We would lose about 80 parking spaces. He said that he does not know when this will happen; the project is now on hold.

After answering several questions such as those above, Mr. Nasser left the meeting.

David then mentioned several other items of importance. He reminded us that USFSP will be issuing its own degrees, so that the diploma will say *University of South Florida St. Petersburg*. It has not yet been determined how soon this will happen as it will take time to separate Tampa students from St. Pete students.

A high priority for the University is to build a new Science/Technology Building. There is \$111,000,000 for PECO for all 11 Universities within the SUS.

The SACS requirements have been met and or application along with appropriate paperwork has been sent to SACS. We will know by June or July if we need to submit anything further or if the process will continue. If we do get separate accreditation, we will be the first one of the regional campuses in the state of Florida to get it.

At the Board of Trustees meeting Monday, there was mention of a proposal made by the state to have, non-degree seeking students or students who take more than 110% of the courses for their degree to pay out-of-state fees. Last year, the E&G funds per student from the State were \$12,500 and now it is \$10,000.

There is a proposed state bill to have all students take a competency test when they graduate. There is also a proposed bill to place an American flag in every classroom for K-20 grades, and the money would come from student A&S funds.

David said there probably will not be salary or cost-of-living increases this year. If there is one for faculty and staff, then it would come from student tuition fees. He said that out of the 11 State universities, USF ranks 6th for faculty salaries.

David told us that Joyce Morin, who was Co-Chair of the USPS Senate, is now an A&P employee. Therefore, we need to appoint a new Co-Chair. David will send out an e-mail for suggestions so that we can nominate someone for this position. He will also let us know the responsibilities of this position.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.