

Minutes of the Emory University Senate
March 28, 2006
Jones Room, Woodruff Library

In attendance: Jerry Abraham, Peter Barnes, Patricia Brennan, Jim Brown, Tim Bryson, Louis Burton, Ronald Calabrese, Leslie Campis, Vincent Carter, Steven Culler, Allison Dykes, Thomas Frank, Ron Gatlin, Nadine Kaslow, Lauren Kent-Delany, Susie Lackey, Richard Levinson, Earl Lewis, Gerald Lowrey, Frank Maddox, Lynn Magee [and guest Linda King], Michael Mandl, Bryan Mashioff, Richard Mendola, Richard Metters, Judy Raggi Moore, Carol Newsom, Ryan Paddock, Joyce Piatt, Michael Rogers, Cynthia Shaw, Rosalind Staib, Sharon Strocchia, Emily Takieddine, Betsy Tanner, Jennifer Vazquez, James Wagner, Richard Ward, Donna Wong.

Excused: Kent Alexander, Lawrence Benveniste, Mary Cahill, Kim Collins, Brent Conway, Richard Doner, Allison Dykes, Gary Hauk, Jane Howell, William Kelly, Linda Matthews, Ken Minneman, Magda Sossa, Sidney Stein, Claire Sterk, Frank Stout, Mike Terrazas.

Absent: Robert Ahdieh, Feras Akbik, Jonathan Beam, Brittany Bermudez, Jamar Brown, Curt Carlson, Arlene Chapman, Andrew Chern, Winifred Cisar, Mahlon DeLong, Eugene Emory, Robert Ethridge, Zandra Foster, John Ford, Maggie Gilead, Jan Gleason, Kate Heilpern, Brian Houston, Michael Johns, Charlotte Johnson, Ronnie Jowers, Kenton Kelly, Del King, Harriet King, Jeffrey Koplan, Jane Lawson, Rosemary Magee, Edith Murphree, Michael Owen, Paige Parvin, Johnnie Ray, Judith Rohrer, David Schechter, Holli Semetko, Jennifer Sorrells, Steve Strange, Joseph Tipograph, Paul Towne, Vance, West, Andy Wilson, Karl Woodworth.

I. Welcome and call to order

University Senate President Michael Rogers called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

II. Approval of February 2006 minutes

The minutes were approved as distributed.

III. Election of Officers:

Nominations were received for the open officer positions. Janet Gallo was nominated for the Senate Secretary position. Dr. Nadine Kaslow was nominated for President-Elect. At this time nominations will be closed and the ballots distributed.

IV. Honorary Degrees update – Dick Levinson

Dick Levinson distributed the Slate of candidates to the Senate. The Senate will vote today on the slate. Once approved Senate President, Michael Rogers will present the Slate to the President and the Board of Trustees. This slate will be added to the pool of candidates that already exists from which the President makes his annual selection.

V. Election Results of Officers

The election was unanimous Dr. Nadine Kaslow is the new President-Elect and Janet Gallo is the new secretary.

VI. Remarks by President Jim Wagner

The Strategic Plan Steering committee has been decommissioned. Invitations for the Implementation Committee have been extended. This is the committee that will help the Strategic Plan and its leaders to move forward. The committee will set priorities on initiatives and increase transparency of the overall process. This committee will report to the Cabinet as well as the Ways and Means Committee. Leadership in general can range from command from the top down mode to the uncoordinated mode of everyone doing their own thing. This is a new direction for us and we are trying to find a middle ground between these two modes.

VII. Election Results of the Honorary Degree Slate

The election was unanimous and approved the Slate put forward. Special thanks to the committee and Dick Levinson for a job well done.

VIII. Transportation Plan

- **FMD Presentation – Bob Hascall and Laura Ray**

There are four main reasons that we began to consider changes to our current shuttle system. Approximately 7,000 employees live within a 3 mile radius of campus.

1. There was a general concern about the quality of our shuttles and the shuttle service.
2. A key theme in the strategic plan is sustainability and sustainability calls for attention to single occupancy vehicles.
3. The 1998 Master Plan listed a more pedestrian friendly campus as one of it's goals.

The Emory transportation plan is in partnership with the Clifton Corridor Transportation Management Association (CCTMA). Emory's shuttle system is a free service to the public. Riders are not asked to provide any form of ID. Emory's proposed recommendations include: revamping **current shuttle routes**, creating new off-campus parking lots with shuttle access, improving community access for lunch and shopping.
Proposed Changes:

1. Create a Transit Nexus – The Woodruff Circle will become the nexus, where are all shuttles stop. This will make it easy to transfer to a different route. There will be shelters for people to wait in. This will also take the shuttle stop off of Clifton Road and away from busy traffic. The shuttle office will be working to improve the signage at all shuttle stops.
2. Make routes more efficient – by dividing some of the routes into two they will move quickly
3. Increase frequency to Decatur – this has already begun with the addition of another shuttle and now operates every 20 minutes. A Georgia Tech Shuttle was added as well.
4. Eliminate vehicle traffic on central campus by removing shuttles from interior routes.
5. Establish new routes like the proposed Carter Center route.

Planned Enhancements:

1. Vehicle Upgrades – New shuttles are being purchased. Also considering a shuttle that runs on biodiesel, they are currently working with an Emory Grad Student on this. The goal is to use waste from Campus Dining to fuel the shuttle.
2. Installing vehicle locator technology so that shuttle office can tell where the bottlenecks are and also riders will know when the next shuttle will be arriving. The shuttle office will also begin to track the number of riders by using passenger counters.
3. Providing wireless internet access (Wi-fi) on the Oxford shuttle as well as longer ride shuttles from the park n ride lots.
4. Loaner Car Program – In negotiations with Flex Car. It's an hourly rental car company. They currently have programs in major cities like Portland, Seattle and Washington DC. All alternative transportation riders will be allotted 4 free hours of rental use each week. At first there will be 6 cars on campus, Honda Civics. As the demand and usage increases more cars can be added. Users will have to complete an application and are then eligible to use Flex Car in any of the participating cities. Flex Car is working with Emory to design a pilot program for College Students (ages 18-21). This could be very helpful to our students.
5. Incentive Program Review – It was pointed out that graduate students or Part-time workers were not eligible for some of the incentives and so the plans are being reviewed. Any changes will be presented to the community.
6. Other – The shuttle office is in the process of locating Park n Ride lots for Emory use. After careful review of Emory employees home address zip codes that a large number of people could benefit from Park n Ride locations at the North Lake Mall, North Dekalb Mall as well as Stone Mountain. The parking at these lots will be free and secured. The shuttles will run from those lots to main campus. The frequency will be based on ridership. The Student Government has expressed an interest in late night shuttles from popular nightlife

areas and the shuttle office will work with them to see what can be piloted.

Input on the proposed shuttle changes can be emailed to:
shuttles@emory.edu or shuttle@emory.edu

- **Response from Parking and Transportation Committee – Lynn Magee and Linda King**

During a visit in early February of this year Mr. Mandl informed our committee that the University will no longer subsidize parking fees for employees. Effective in February 2007 a significant increase in parking rates will occur with the possibility of equalized parking. During this meeting Mr. Mandl reminded us of the letter he and Provost sent to the Emory Community last April indicating the possibility that it may be necessary for Emory to reduce (or eliminate) the subsidy, in order to provide additional investments in alternative transportation and shuttle services.

As a committee we are pleased to know that Emory is participating with area organizations to review congestion in the corridor and the impact of traffic congestion in the Atlanta area. We also understand the reasons for change and want to work with the new shuttle initiative but ask that the following recommendations be considered:

- continue to review efficiency of the new shuttle system
- widely publicize shuttle enhancements for all employees
- offer incentives for satellite parking
- consider equalizing parking rates over several years
- continue preferred parking at a higher rate
- provide supplemental increases for employees on the lower pay scale
- special consideration for employees enrolled in classes and that have child care needs
- increase van and car pool options
- continue to offer telecommuting options for employees and provide flexibility in work schedules for those participating in one of the alternative transportation program

We recognize that this is a chance of mindset for the entire community and is in line with the vision we all have for Emory.

- **Response from the Committee on the Environment (Tim Bryson)**

Although core elements of the shuttle plan reflect COE input from a couple years ago, the plan was like a single engine prop plane sputtering on the runway until Laura Ray came and turned it into a Lear Jet and took off with it. COE's comments to her were much the same as those of the Transportation Committee. Let me just emphasize our view that the program will need a strong marketing component to encourage the community to embrace it and a pro-active program to solicit feedback after implementation to expedite any necessary adjustments.

- **General Discussion**

- Will there be public facilities like bathrooms and phones at the Transit Nexus to keep riders from wandering into the buildings? That had not been considered but we will consider it.

- I live in a 3 mile radius, where are the stops for me to get on? The stops have not been created yet. We will designate stops and look to have a volume of riders at each stop. Stops will not be at each individual's home or on demand.

- Will there be provisions for people with disabilities? Yes, all shuttles will have wheelchair lifts. We have asked that all stops be announced by the driver. The shuttles are all low floor buses or kneeling buses. There will also be bike racks on all shuttles.

- It sounds like some of the shuttle routes will be competing with current Marta routes, was that your intent? No, we are not looking to compete with Marta. Our routes will enhance Marta routes by running additional shuttles we will increase everyone's ability to use alternate transportation at their convenience.

- Has there been any thought to security? All Park n Ride Lots will be patrolled and lit. All of the shuttle bus operators have radios that can be used to call for help. All of the shuttles will stop and start at Emory points. We also probably won't have a lot of outside community ridership given we don't advertise our shuttles.

- Has there been any discussion about providing additional shuttles at Oxford College? There is a meeting on April 20th to discuss.

- Will the routes and or the frequency run on a 9 month or a 12 month basis? Those details are still being worked out.

- Will there be an increase in shuttles to Lennox Mall? Not at this time, that shuttle will continue to run on Saturday's only.

- Will there be a trial enrollment period before you have to give up your hangtag? The proposed shuttle changes are scheduled to begin September 1st of this year. Everyone is encouraged to try the new shuttles. Parking hangtags will renew in January of 2007 so people have 6 months to decide if they want to continue to park on campus.

- Have you devised metrics for the proposed shuttle changes? We will be tracking usage and satisfaction.

- Do you know when we will know more about the student program for Flex Cars? This would be a real advantage to students that have outpatient doctors visits for substance abuse, eating disorders etc. These services are often difficult for them to get to without a car. We don't have dates yet but will publicize the program as soon as we can.

- **Comments from Michael J. Mandl, Vice President for Finance and Administration**

The transit and shuttle proposed changes are essential for Emory's future. We would like the Emory community to be more inviting and for people to be out and about around the campus at all times of the day. We are working with the County to improve sidewalks so that people can safely walk. We also need to increase the number of things there are for people to do. We need to build 2 or more Emory Village type spaces on the other sides of campus. We need to have a variety of lunch options. We also need to incorporate affordable housing into our community. There has been considerable discussion about the subsidy that we offer employees to park on this campus. It is currently costing Emory about \$1.4 million annually. Our parking rates are lower than our peer institutions. We believe it is more consistent with our values to subsidize non-single occupancy commutes rather than single occupancy parking. There are free options available to all employees, the Park n Ride Lots and Shuttles. There are low cost vanpools and carpools. We are also sensitive to our lower income employees, specifically those earning less than \$30,000. I am tentatively suggesting that we provide a \$300 annual salary increase to those employees to cover the increased parking rate. Those employees will then have the option of keeping the money by taking free transportation or they can continue to park on campus. Communication is key right now.

IX. New Business

Peter Barnes, Vice President for Human Resources, announced that the option for EmoryChoice PPO was being brought back. The change would be available in May and there would be no change in the premium.

Rollins School of Public Health announced that next week is National Public Health Week. On Thursday, April 6, 2006, Dean Curran will address 30 years of Public Health at Emory. Flyers were distributed.

Senate President Michael Rogers reminded Committee Chairs that final reports were due next month.

The new student government representatives were announced and welcomed: Ryan Paddock, SGA President; Feras Akbik, Emory College SGA Division President.

X. University Senate President Michael Rogers adjourned the meeting at 4:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Vazquez
Secretary of the University Senate