

To: Troy D. Paino, President
Lisa Bowling, Vice President for Advancement and University Relations
Sabrina Johnson, Vice President for Equity and Access and Chief Diversity Officer
Juliette Landphair, Vice President for Student Affairs
Jeff McClurken, Chief of Staff and Clerk of the Board of Visitors
Paul Messplay, Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Nina Mikhalevsky, Provost
Jeffrey W. Rountree, Chief Executive Officer, UMW Foundation
Kimberley Buster-Williams, Vice President for Enrollment Management
Jean Elliott, Manager, Parking Services
UFC / UFAC
SAC Members

From: UMW Staff Advisory Council

Re: Parking @ UMW

Date: July 11, 2019

During the spring, the SAC received an email message about parking from the Office Manager of one of the academic departments. The email message asked if we would be willing to address the issue with 'those who can help make changes'.

This message was prompted by a request that was sent to the UFC / UFAC:

As a member of the UFC, I am wondering if its [sic] possible for UFAC to take into consideration parking related matters? Given the new reality of most of College Heights and College Avenue being unavailable for faculty parking, I am wondering if it is possible to approach the administration about frequent lot closures for events. Unless there is good rationale (such as disability needs), I propose that instead of closing GW and UC lots to faculty and staff, the administration direct guests of the university to the parking garage and Battleground parking lot to minimize disruption for faculty and staff.

Such frequent lot closures are vestigia of the old reality of more parking availability for faculty and staff.

Yes, we agree that parking restrictions are an inconvenience, but we feel that we can (and should) work together to develop a solution that benefits visitors to the campus, as well members of the university community. We do not feel that parking for visitors should be relegated to the far ends of campus for events, but that alternatives for employees should be explored for those days (telecommuting, shuttles, etc.). We also strongly recommend increased communication regarding parking changes for large scale events.

One SAC member shared an example of how she feels about parking for UMW visitors. She stated:

If I invite friends over for dinner and an evening of fun, I don't expect them to park far from my house; rather, I save a space for them in my driveway. I also put out clean towels in the bathroom, clean the house, and prepare food that will be enjoyed by the guests. In short, I treat them as honored guests to my home.

SAC members agreed with this, and feel that guests to the University (potential students and their families, participants in the Career Fair, graduates of the Police Academy, and others) should be treated as our honored guests.

In our discussions, both the SAC Executive Committee and the SAC as a whole resoundingly support the need to resolve the University's parking issues, but we advocate for a different solution than the one proposed to the UFC / UFAC. We opted to maintain a solution-focused approach. Recommendations from the SAC are:

- Notify the University community at least 48 hours in advance of parking lot closures.
- Send out a message to the University community, reminding them that there are avenues for assistance (i.e. UMW Escort service) should help be needed.
- Work with sponsors of events to ensure that the most appropriate venue and hours of operation are selected.
- Re-establish the Parking Advisory Committee, charging and empowering them to examine the parking issues, and make recommendations for changes.
- Post a calendar on the parking website to show the days that lots will be closed so that employees may plan ahead.
- Email a list of parking lot changes out each week. If no changes are expected, state that.
- Run a shuttle service to / from the Parking Deck and other lots on days that the GW and the UC lots are reserved for visitors to the UMW campus. Develop, advertise, and adhere to a schedule.
- Reduce the number of permanently reserved spots (i.e. for Sodexo, various University departments, specific faculty / staff members).
- Consider providing golf carts for some departments, instead of full-size vehicles. For example, we should investigate the feasibility of the Housekeeping staff (and other departments) using a golf cart to travel between buildings, rather than having all members of a crew drive separately from site to site.
- Allocate one space per vendor where feasible (i.e. Career Fair attendees). Suggest that additional attendees should park in alternate lots (i.e. Parking Deck), and carpool with other attendees from the same organization.
- Encourage employees to telework on days when parking is restricted; supervisors and employees should work together to ensure that the proper paperwork is completed and submitted prior to the day that it is needed.
- Consider excluding handicapped spaces from restricted areas.
- Begin planning immediately for the next parking deck.

Will following these suggestions resolve all of the issues? Absolutely not, but doing so would go a long way toward easing tensions surrounding parking. We recognize that errors will be made; we also recognize that there is not an intent to inconvenience / harm others. Is there more work to be done? Absolutely, but we can move toward positive changes by working together. Will we have a solution tomorrow? No, but we can address some of the things above almost immediately.

Thank you for hearing our feedback. We stand ready to partner with other members of the University Community to develop a plan for resolving – or at least reducing – parking related concerns.