



WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Buildings and Grounds Committee
Wright State University
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435-0001

November 3, 2022

Faculty Senate Executive Committee:

The Wright State University Buildings and Grounds Committee has met three times during the Fall 2022 Semester and each time the subject of parking at the main campus of Wright State University has been discussed. The meetings included a review of the new parking rules at Wright State set in place at the beginning of this semester and a discussion of faculty, staff, and student thoughts over this situation. Since parking falls under the purview of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, we felt it appropriate to address this topic in a letter to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. As part of our due diligence, we reviewed the WSU policy on parking, the WSU policy on amending current policies, and the Faculty Senate meeting minutes. We have received comments from faculty, we have met with Chief Holden, and we have a letter from the current president of student government, who also happens to be a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Below are some thoughts that the Buildings and Grounds committee would like to make known to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee about this situation. You may already be aware of most of these issues; however, we feel it is important to have our committee's thoughts in writing.

The first issue is that Wright Way Policy 7410.4 – Permits and Fees (web site <https://policy.wright.edu/policy/7410-parking>) does not match the current parking situation we have in place. This policy discusses the old parking situation at Wright State, not the new one (the one that started with the 2022 Fall Semester). At the top of this policy web site (on the same website listed above), it states that this policy was amended with a temporary/emergency order on August 24, 2022 saying that these policies are in effect from August 24, 2022 until December 22, 2022. Even though the parking policy was updated on August 24, 2022, it still talks about the old parking system. This is confusing. Wright Way Policy 0001.3 – Policy on Policies (web site <https://policy.wright.edu/policy/0001-policy-policies>) states that changes to regular policies must be posted to the University's policy website at least 30 days in advanced of formal action. It also states that emergency policy changes are effective immediately upon posting to the University policy register. Whether the policies on our new parking situation come under emergency order or regular order, the fact is, as of October 21, 2022, the posted policy on parking appears to be the old one. This means there is an action change without the requisite change and posting of the policy that goes along with the action. The Buildings and Grounds Committee believes that policy and action should agree. It seems as though the current changes in parking were made in a rush and some steps that should have led the actions were not undertaken. The Buildings and Grounds Committee believes these changes could have been implemented in a more friendly and complete manner if done in collaboration with more constituencies at Wright State University and given a little more time in their implementation.

The second set of issues on which the Buildings and Grounds Committee would like to comment is the fulltime staff currently available to manage Wright State's parking situation, and the stated reduction in revenue generated by parking under the new system. Due to retirements, it appears our fulltime parking staff has been reduced from 3 persons to 1 person. This is a large reduction in staff; and it is understood that this makes it more difficult to handle all the issues involved with parking, like updating policies. According to Wright State's Chief Operating Officer, it appears the new parking situation will result in a reduction of about 0.5 million dollars in revenue to Wright State. The Buildings and Grounds committee is wondering why the parking prices were not kept the same and an additional full-time parking staff hired? In addition, at a time when Wright State is struggling to balance budgets, why is it cutting parking revenue? Could this 0.5 million dollars have been better used to offset budget reductions in other areas? The question that needs to be answered is the following: is this the most effective way to allocate 0.5 million dollars so that Wright State is in a better place for students to obtain a college education? The goal is to attract students to Wright State. Maybe reducing parking prices at the cost of 0.5 million dollars is not the best way to do this? In addition, the Buildings and Grounds Committee would like the administration to provide detailed budget numbers on parking and the budget cuts that are currently underway at Wright State. Included with these budget sheets, we would like to see the return on investment analysis done for the expected 0.5 million dollars in parking revenue reduction.

The third issue on which the Buildings and Grounds Committee would like to comment, is the reaction of the students to this parking change. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has not surveyed the student body on these changes, but we do have access to the thoughts of Student Government. Attached to this letter is a letter from the Student Government President. According to Student Government, Wright State students appear to be in favor of the new parking situation. Of course, some students have complained about the empty Rowdy Raider spots. However, the Buildings and Grounds Committee believes it is reasonable to conclude that students will be happy with the new parking changes, once they understand them, because the parking situation for students has just become easier. Chief Holden has stated at a Faculty Senate meeting that part of the motivation for the new parking procedure is to make the Wright State experience more attractive to students. This is a noble goal!

Fourthly, the Buildings and Grounds Committee would like the Executive Committee to know that there are a number of faculty who are not happy with the new parking situation. This stands to reason also, as parking for some faculty has become more difficult, especially at the noon hour. According to Chief Holden's data on parking passes, the number of passes sold for the Fall 2022 Semester at the main campus is 4606 student permits and 1251 faculty and staff permits. This makes a total of 5857 parking permits sold for the Dayton Campus. It is the understanding of the Buildings and Grounds Committee that there are approximately 7000 parking spaces on the Dayton Campus, not including those at the Nutter Center. This means everyone should have a place to park, at any time of the day; however, they may not be close to the building to which they want to enter. This places an inconvenience on the faculty and staff, which can rise to a difficulty for some older faculty. Faculty and staff should have been consulted before making these changes to the parking situation at Wright State. The manner in which this parking change was undertaken shows a lack of respect by the administration for the people who work at this institution.

Lastly, the Building and Grounds committee acknowledges that Wright State University's attempt to put the students first in the implementation of this new parking arrangement was well meaning; however, the process of implementing this new policy lacked transparency and involvement from faculty, staff, and students. In addition, it appears that updating policy pages on Wright State's web site was not completed. The Buildings and Grounds committee is not sure whether the net benefit of this parking change will be

positive or negative to Wright State in the long run; however, we believe it prudent to see how it works for the 2022-2023 academic year. The Rowdy Raider spots have all been marked and the students are aware of their new opportunities in parking. To make an abrupt change in the parking situation during this academic year would mean a loss of data on how this new parking system will work, and more importantly, be detrimental to Wright State's relationship with its students.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Menart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Building and Grounds Committee
Chair, James Menart