Transportation and Parking Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2003

Attending: Shamim Sisson, Becca White, Mark Fletcher, Debbie Gausvik, Vincent Jones, Jo Lawson, Carole Lohman, Phil Moran, Mark Reisler, Len Schoppa, Will Sowers, Bill Thurneck

Guest: Richard Kovatch

Ms. Sisson opened the meeting at 3:35pm with a request for additions or corrections to the minutes from the last meeting. There were two modifications noted by Ms. McClemens that have been made to the minutes (5th paragraph) regarding the rate for on-site storage permits going from $15-$17 last year rather than $17-$18 which will be the proposed increase for 2004, additionally, two sentences past the rate information the sentence was rewritten for clarification that “P&T would not recommend an increase in the hourly fees in attended facilities”. These changes have been made to the file copy of the minutes. Ms. Lawson moved to approve the minutes with the changes noted. Mr. Thurneck provided the second and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

The new Emmet Ivy garage opened on November 12, 2003 at 5:30 am. Ms. White reported that there are now some 1,900 “zip-tags” issued for the facility. Anyone holding a blue or orange permit can receive a “zip-tag”. Occupancy is averaging in the 400 parkers range. This slow maturity is a good thing. Use of the facility for athletics event parking has resulted in an average of 270 users for football over the last two games and so far an average of 120 parkers for basketball. The charge for football parking is $10 per event and basketball parking is $5 per event. The facility is manned by P&T personnel during special events and certain restrictions apply, such as an entry time frame, no tailgating, and a mandatory exit time frame. The advantage to “zip-tag” holders is that they do not have to relocate during the event as was required when the lots around University Hall were used for such parking.

Ms. Sisson commented on the recent article in the “Cavalier Daily” regarding bus driver recruitment efforts being carried out by Parking and Transportation. She found the article to be reasonable although Will Sowers felt that he was quoted out of context and did not find that to be appropriate since he was speaking as a Student Council Member rather than as a bus driver. Ms. White reported that certain measures have been put into place to promote driver retention. A new pay structure has been approved along with a formal performance review process that would have pay increases attached for satisfactory or better driver performance. At this time there are 17 applicants who have committed to the January training session.

Mr. Sowers said that due to exams and semester end, there was no Student Council report.
Ms. White reviewed the background information on the last 3-year rate plan which has become a 4-year plan due to last year’s recommendation to defer most rate increases. The only parking rate that increased last year was the monthly rate for the on-site storage permit for students, which went from $15 to $17 monthly. Other considerations offered included possible citation fine modifications. P&T would not recommend an increase in the hourly fees in attended facilities. The department faces a more aggressive bus replacement schedule (from 20 years to 15 years) which would result in an increased commitment to reserves of $100,000-$120,000 annually. For information, she also reminded the committee that the planned increases for 2002-03 were deferred to December 2002 rather than June.

The pricing goal for the on-site storage is to maintain a $6 differential between it and the student storage/commuter permits. Therefore, it would be appropriate to increase the student on-site storage permit rate to $18 per month. The fine for parking in either a reserved lot space or a commuter lot space should be the same, therefore, the request for equalization of the fine ($30) for each type citation is requested.

The service cost increases for the current year are being absorbed by the system but that cannot continue into future years, Mr. Kovatch pointed out. These costs along with a more aggressive replacement schedule and the student driver retention initiatives will contribute to a higher student comprehensive fee.

The Department of Parking and Transportation would appreciate a recommendation from the committee to proceed with the fee schedule as outlined. Other items from the committee that could be expected for the future included: increased shopping transport, an occasional parker program, encouragement of city transit use, support for carpooling, use of bio-diesel vehicles and the possible means of incorporating these issues and services. Discussion of individual issues and items ensued for a short period.

Mr. Schoppa advanced the following motion, which was seconded by Ms. Lawson:

The Transportation and Parking Committee recommends the implementation of the third year rate increases as follows with the addition of increasing the student on-site storage permit rate to $18 monthly.

- Commuter permits $12 monthly
- Student storage $12 monthly
- Annual Resident $12 monthly
- Reserved permits $24 monthly
- Premium permit $34 monthly
- CGG permit $60 monthly

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Sisson reported a student concern that the full student ID# (Social Security #) is printed on Cavalier Advantage receipts. Mr. Kovatch reports that there are plans to modify all users’ card reader stations to eliminate this problem. This has been
accomplished in the Cavalier Advantage office. Consideration may be forthcoming on an institutional level to change the ID# systems.

Ms. Lohman reported a problem with sidewalk clearing during the recent snow as it was needed at the Emmet/Ivy garage. Ms. White reported that she had been in touch with Mr. Chris Willis of Facilities Management regarding the problem. It is not expected to be a problem in the future.

Will Sowers reported that the road surfaces in the Lawn alleys was in poor condition. P&T will include the alleys in spring reviews for resurfacing or patching.

Ms. Lawson inquired about the downtown football shuttles. Ms. White reported increases in use of some 20%, which applied to the season sales and the use of University facilities also. It is unknown how many single event users there were downtown.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm by Ms. Sisson with a reminder of the next meeting on January 22, 2003 at 3:30 pm and wishes for an enjoyable holiday season. The location for the January meeting will be announced prior to the meeting.