

Responsible UCA

February 16, 2012, 1:40 p.m.

- Diane Newton presented information that was referred to the RU Committee from the Traffic & Parking Committee
 - Park & Pay Stations
 - The committee discussed park & pay stations vs. the traditional parking meters that are currently in place. It was determined that this was not so much a cost-saving proposition as a proposition that could increase revenue and convenience; therefore, the RU committee chose to defer this back to the Traffic & Parking Committee.
 - Charging stations for Electric Cars
 - There have been two requests for charging stations so far – one from a faculty member, one from a student. There is not very much demand yet, but this demand will likely increase in years to come as electric vehicles become more widely used
 - It should be noted that charging stations are necessary only for all-electric cars (not hybrids)
 - Several universities across the nation have begun installing charging stations
 - Grant money is available from a variety of sources (Department of Energy, etc.), and some universities have partnered with power companies, charging station manufacturers, etc. to fund the installation of the stations.
 - UCA should look into any grant opportunities available as well as talk to Conway Corp to see how the two can work together on this project
 - It would be good for UCA to be ahead of the curve on this – promotes environmental sustainability and would be good PR for the university as well
 - It would be a good idea to explore the option of installing solar panels in the covers/roofs over any potential charging stations to generate the electricity for the stations
 - Diane will email the documents she has on this topic to the RU committee members
- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)
 - Scott Roussel has suggested that UCA form a coalition with other city offices and entities own large fleets of vehicles to pool their resources to put in a CNG station and convert their vehicles to run on CNG.
 - At this time, a CNG station costs about \$1 million to put in place. The cost of converting vehicles to run on CNG is a completely separate expense in addition to this.
 - Jack Gillelan will check with Jeff Pitchford to see what the status is on the CNG discussion
- Conway / UCA – bike-friendly community and campus

- The Stone Dam Creek trail will be a bike- and pedestrian-friendly route. The route will partially cross campus roads. Therefore, an emblem (similar to the bike emblems painted on various roads in the city of Conway) indicating that the impacted roads are to be shared with bikes will need to be painted.
 - The use of bikes on campus has risen, and there is a need for more bike racks on campus as a result.
 - In conjunction with our effort to promote alternate/greener transportation, UCA might look into installing “bike lockers” in certain outlying parking lots so that commuters who live too far to bike the entire way to campus can keep a bike safely stored there. They can then drive and park at the outlying lot, retrieve their bicycle from a secure locker, and use it to commute on in to and around campus.
 - This could also reduce the need for surface/deck parking on down the line.
 - Assessing where RU “is”
 - This was an ad-hoc committee appointed initially by Dr. Meadors. It is now in its second year and has not been made a standing committee.
 - Can this committee work alongside other similar standing committees, or should it be combined with one of them?
 - A recommendation will need to be made to administration – further discussion will take place at the March/April meetings
 - Issues to look further into
 - Continue to have people from various areas of campus make presentations on ways that costs can be cut and/or things can be done in a more sustainable way
 - Look at travel costs – investigate how the new ghost card rules are impacting travel costs to the university as well as how the rules on receipts/per diem rates are impacting it.
 - Consider ways that UCA might approach the problem of unfunded mandates and revenue reduction – tuition increases cannot continue to be the answer
 - Campus lighting – converting to more energy-efficient bulbs will be a big cost initially, but it has a very short payback and many benefits
 - A resolution will be written at the next meeting to support this being funded in the next whiteboard/capital projects meeting
 - The next meeting dates are set for 3/15 and 4/19. One of these meetings may be held in a larger location so that SEED members may also attend and have a conversation together with the RU committee members.
 - The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.