



GPSC General Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 16th, 2010: Room 0016 Westbrook

Presiding Officer: Felicia Hawthorne

6:30pm: Call to Order

6:30pm: Announcements:

Felicia Hawthorne – The GPSC retreat will be on January 22nd. All Graduate and Professional Students are welcome and it is not required but highly recommended for all GPSC reps. It will be a one day event (9am-4pm) followed by a social mixer. The Retreat will be held at [The Cotton Room](#) on East Main Street, Durham. The event will be capped at 70 this year.

6:32pm: Last meeting's minutes were passed with no changes.

6:33pm: Brian Williams – Transportation Demand Management Coordinator.

- New position created on September 1st to go along with Duke's plan to be carbon neutral by 2024. A large part of that are our transportation emissions which makes up 23% of our carbon and how people commute to campus will be a big way in which we address that.
- Future of parking – alternative transportation. Duke doesn't have any plans to add any more parking lots even though there will be new buildings and centers that will add a couple thousand more people. Instead better bus systems, incentives for car pool, biking etc will be encouraged.
- The Green Zone – The biggest problem probably is that the current map does not show all the green zone parking. There are 6 different lots in the green zone. Tomorrow a message will be sent out to all grad students who have green zone passes to show where those lots are. The green zone also sells spaces to Bryant Center employees who fill up the two lots on Towerview Road typically by 6:30am so students are recommended to use the other lots. Transportation recognizes that there are no sidewalks along parts of Towerview and other streets and this will be addressed in the future.
- The email will include alternative transportation options such as biking and car pools as well as links about late night options such as Duke Vans, Taxi On Demand and Charlene Safe Ride.
- Request to have email sent out to all GnP students, not just this with passes to the Green Zone.
 - This is being worked on and is the ultimate goal, however the email tomorrow will just be for Green Zone pass holders.
- Request to have the email send out to students with car pool passes also.



- Sure.
- Question - How does the subsidy work for DATA and the TTA? If you are registered for a class at UNC you can get a free pass for DATA and TTA but at Duke you have to pay a monthly pass. Why the difference?
 - UNC has been working on this much longer and so Duke is behind on offering incentives. Brian will be working on an updating this.
- Rates will be going up for parking passes as Duke has relatively cheap parking compared to other schools. Close to a decade now, Duke has been losing money on parking and has been subsidizing it and this no longer makes sense. As money is put into alternative transportation the parking lots will be raised in fee.
- The Robinson bus is subsidized by the Robinson family and they have full control over it. If the route was stopped by the family Duke would have to make arrangements most likely.
- Recommendation – Most grad students get information before they arrive here and are really routed to getting a parking pass. Perhaps if more information about free buses etc are given to new students then perhaps students can make more green decisions.
 - Yes, good idea. Working with schools to incorporate more information into orientation.
 - Working on housing and getting students to live closer to campus.
- Recommendation – DATA buses are often late. Can Duke work with DATA and suggest more often buses during rush hours etc? Also, recommendation on how to fix bikes, transport stuff on bikes etc.
 - DATA has recently been taken over by TTA. The schedule should be enhanced but we'll have to wait and see.
 - Biking – The Duke Bike Outpost – If you are a student you can rent a bike for free for up to a month in weekly increments. If you have a bike and need repairs they will repair it for free labour (parts have to be paid for). There are approximately 120 bikes and is free for all students. Located under the bridge for the Bryant Center.
 - Durham is rated Bronze for biking. Durham City has someone who works on biking lane, sidewalks etc. They have put together a Durham Bike and Walking map.
- Advice for students who get to school by 10am and the lots are full?
 - Typically the lots on University drive are not full. The email tomorrow will have advice on each lot and typically what time each fills up.
- If there are problems and you need to contact Brian his email is bpw3@duke.edu

7:07pm - Dr. Tallman Trask – Executive Vice President

Financial status of the institution:

- Two years ago our endowment lost about 1.5 billion dollars about 25% of its value.



- Our annual budget got a reduction of about 100 million dollars.
- Even though the economy is recovering we are still down about 1 billion dollars right now in the endowment.
- We have had to make some serious cutbacks because of it. The vast majority of the cuts have been though administrative cuts and not from academic programs. Schools that were hit were those that were highly dependent on the endowment such as Arts and Sciences. Tuition dependents school such as Fuqua and Law had less of a cut but even so Fuqua still had challenges because of fluctuating enrolment.
- Planning first salary increases in 3 years for Jan 2011.
- Part of the problem is that Duke is dependent on very large gifts from friends but they also lost money in the economic depression so there haven't been any very large gifts recently and these are not expected to arrive anytime soon.
- Construction was practically halted over the past few years. Duke has committed not to take on any new capital until it's understood how it can be paid for.
- Comment – The Ride Vans will not take students home until 10:45pm which means that these students have to take the La Salle Loop bus. The bus however has designated stops and students have to walk through dark areas to their homes. To have instigated this post 2 robberies on La Salle makes no sense.
 - Will talk to the relevant persons about this issue.
- Q – How strongly will the 100 million dollar cut going to affect the University's operating budget?
 - Made a point with the Trustees that Universities don't respond very well to big swings in either direction and that other institutions that had done that had created other problems. Duke took \$165 million dollars to insulate the transition over a 3 year period which will end in 2013. Hopefully by that point expenses will be down and revenues will be up enough to fill that gap. For the first time in a long time we are below the target of endowment growth but it was decided that it was better to spread out the loss over a longer period of time.
- Q - What programs/ initiatives are being invested in to reduce costs in the future?
 - Procurement – Starting in Jan 2011, advice will be given on how to buy more smartly. This is typically done on an individual basis so the decisions will be more difficult to control but this contributes to 600 million.
 - Facilities – Dealing with efficiency of the buildings. A chill plant etc.
- Q - Sustainability and Parking and how is his office supporting this?
 - Parking at Duke has been problematic for a long time. The University had a lot of land in the past and for a long time people could park as close as they wanted for as cheaply as they want. But this does not work anymore. Duke right now as twice as many parking spaces as UCLA but the problem is allocation. Single occupancy vehicles is the least sustainable means of transportation. The City Connector has been a start.



- Duke has the most LEED certified buildings of any school in the US and recently got the first free standing LEED certified parking garage.
- What should graduate students be aware of for the future cuts that still have to be made?
 - 400 persons have left Duke (not laid off but voluntary resignation) and some of those will not be replaced. Mostly staff but in some schools that will be faculty also. This will be challenging in the face of increasing enrolment.
 - Duke has controlled administrative growth over the past decade and of the main universities Duke is second lowest on non-academic administrative growth.

7:39pm New Issues

- No new issues.

7:39 Meeting adjourned. Next meeting to be held on November 30th.