

Request would put parking cost in alumni budget

By Michelle Carr

The cost of replacement parking if the alumni center is built on campus should be included in the center's budget, according to members of the Parking Advisory Committee and ASUN President Bud Cuca.

At a Wednesday meeting, the parking committee moved to write a letter via Chancellor Young to the Central Planning Committee suggesting that the committee include the cost of displaced parking in the construction budget. The parking committee also included in the letter their concern of overflow into existing lots from persons using the center.

Cuca agreed with the suggestion, stating that the Alumni Association has an obligation to pay for displaced parking.

"If they (Alumni Association) can raise \$500,000, they can pay for parking," Cuca said.

The Alumni Association helps the university in many ways, but should refrain from harming student life, as it is doing in displacing parking, Cuca said.

"I don't think students should be paying for it," Cuca said.

John Meakin, committee member, said that the cost of

lost parking spaces should be determined in the cost of the center.

"I don't feel that the university students, faculty or staff should bear the brunt of this financial burden," Meakin said.

GORDON SCHOLZ, COMMITTEE member, agreed with Meakin and said that "the facility itself will generate more parking with a substantial number of off-campus users."

According to John Duve, UNL Parking coordinator, 18 parking stalls are to be included in the center's plans.

"It is ridiculous to put the center on campus with only 18 stalls. People will say 'Here's this beautiful monument but you can't get to the damn thing,'" committee member Clinton Hoover said.

Duve noted that under the Central Planning Committee's comprehensive plan, additional parking problems will occur. Parking lot 16, which is adjacent to the metered lot where the center's proposed site is, eventually will be converted to landscape within 3 to 5 years.

However, Duve and committee members said they were not aware of such policy or a statement of that policy in the plan. Duve said this policy may have existed in the

past, but the administration may have to take another look at parking policy in view of high gasoline prices and the energy crunch.

Duve and committee chairman Cliff Hollestelle said that no alternative suggestions to the parking replacement could be made at the meeting.

Alternatives will be discussed at next month's meeting, Hollestelle said. Committee members are encouraging input from anyone interested in the parking problem.

In other matters, the committee heard comments from T.E. Hartung, dean of the College of Agriculture. Hartung said Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln has received complaints from residents in neighborhoods near the East Campus area about students parking on the streets.

Hartung also said that a graded fee system should be installed for staff permits. Under this system, staff who preferred to park close to the campus would pay the usual \$35, but staff that preferred to park in perimeter lots and walk farther would pay a reduced fee.

Hartung said \$35 is too high for permits. "For members of the staff, such as secretaries and technicians who only make \$6,000 to \$7,000 (a year), \$35 bucks is a pretty big bite."

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