

ASUN addresses parking concerns

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS
Staff writer

ASUN

Student senators discussed Wednesday stalling the creation of a new parking garage that could potentially eliminate parking spaces on a lot primarily used by commuter students.

Tad McDowell, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Parking and Transit Services director, told Association of Students of the University of Nebraska members that within the next year, a 14-month construction project could begin on one of three parking garages.

"We are in an unprecedented state of construction right now, and parking concerns are on the rise," McDowell said. "To replace the lost stalls, we will have to go up."

McDowell said some of the construction projects proposed under UNL's master plan will take away student and faculty parking. These projects include a visitors center, an honors residence hall and an addition to the Athletic Department facilities, he said.

ASUN members were concerned with why parking spaces had to be taken away before they could be replaced.

"I really don't understand why we keep losing parking spaces for projects but not gaining any until well after projects are finished," Second Vice President Eddie Brown said. "I'm thinking students will want some answers before you take away their parking and make them walk even farther."

McDowell said that with the many large donations and grants UNL has received this year, donors and university officials have a fast timeline.

"These projects are supposed to be completed by a certain date," McDowell said. "All we can do is build additional parking in conjunction with project construction."

McDowell said Parking Services has looked at other alternatives, including building an additional lot away from campus and busing students to and from the lot, or not allowing freshmen to keep cars on campus.

But none of the ideas will work, he said.

"The first is too expensive, and the second isn't feasible because many students work, and downtown lacks transportation," he said.

McDowell said construction on a new parking garage, if passed by the NU Board of Regents, will begin next year at 14th and Avery streets. The permit-only garage will have 1,150 parking spaces and will be comparable to other parking permit rates.

Kara Slaughter, ASUN Academic Committee chairwoman, asked McDowell if students will face a parking permit price increase next year because of the planned construction.

McDowell said there would be a price increase, but he could not say exactly how much.

Brad Reynolds, a College of Human Resources and Family Sciences senator, asked McDowell if a definite timeline has been established for future parking construction projects.

"I think students would like to know," Reynolds said. "I know I would."

McDowell said parking services is in the planning process now, but would like to hold public campus meetings before any action is taken.

"I firmly believe when we get done, we will have the best combination parking system in the Midwest," McDowell said. "It's just going to take time to get it."



Mother refuses to sign hospital consent form

A Lincoln woman was cited for neglect after her 16-year-old daughter was taken to St. Elizabeth's

Hospital with a 104-degree fever and abdominal pain Monday night.

The girl was home alone and called for an ambulance.

Once she got to the hospital, doctors could not treat her without parental consent.

After the 35-year-old mother and stepfather were contacted, the mother refused to go to the hospital to sign treatment consent forms.

Three phone calls were made by Lincoln police, Heermann said, but the mother refused to come to the hospital because she was out cele-

brating her anniversary.

On the third call, the mother sent the stepfather to the hospital, an hour and a half after the first call.

He could not give consent, because he is not the girl's legal guardian.

The girl was taken into protective custody and treated at the hospital.

The mother was cited for child neglect.

The stepfather was not cited.

Compiled by staff writer Adam Klinker

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