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Parking Fee Increase Raises Controversy

By Jill Wagner

Employees angered over the proposed increase in parking fees for the 1997-98 school year won a partial victory when President Alice B. Hayes instructed the university's budget office to explore alternate fee structures. Faculty, staff and administrators speaking at an open budget hearing Nov. 14 contended the $165 increase would create a hardship for many people whose salaries afford them little surplus income.

Mary Quick, special projects assistant in University Relations, began the public comment portion of the meeting by suggesting the expectation that staff employees can pay the new fee as easily as higher-paid administrators is outright discrimination.

"Administrators have no ceiling on their wages, but the staff does," Quick said. "We still work here too."

In a proposal scheduled to go to the board of trustees in February for approval, parking fees for faculty/staff, resident and commuter student permits would jump from $75 a year to $240. Fringe parking permits would double from $25 to $50 per year.

Hayes, sitting in the audience among the employees, pointed out that the proposal is not final and there is time to explore alternatives. "There is still room for creative thinking," she said.

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The new fees will help cover the cost of building an $11 million parking garage in the valley, next to the soccer field and across the street from the stadium. The five-story structure with 1,100 spaces will be the first project to get under way following the city's approval of the USD master plan, which requires additional parking on campus before other buildings can be developed. Construction is set to begin in January.

At the same time, a surface parking lot will be constructed on the west end of campus, with access from Marian Way. The 376 spaces, which could be available as early as February, will be designated fringe parking. According to Fred Brooks, vice president for finance and administration, the university's tram will run to and from the new lot on a regular schedule.

As speakers continued to express dismay over the fee increase, Brooks, who presided over the budget hearing, maintained the university has to spread the burden of paying for the garage to the drivers who will use it.

"The university has no choice but to pay the bill," he said. "It seems to me the only way to do that is to charge the people that use it."

Some of those users had suggestions for making the fees more equitable, including:

- Use a sliding scale, with fees charged to employees based on their salary.
- Charge for visitor parking to offset the cost of parking to employees and students.
- For those who use public transit, but drive once or twice a week, charge them per day instead of requiring them to buy a year's permit.

(Continued on page four)
Benefit Briefs
Open enrollment ends Dec. 4. Confirmation of an employee's elections are mailed to the home and should be received within 10 days after enrollment. Complete and sign this form and return it to human resources on or before Dec. 16. Enrollment will not be complete until human resources has the signed confirmation form.

Medical subsidy applications and a copy of your 1995 1040 income tax form must be received in human resources on or before Dec. 13. Applications are available in human resources.

Health and dependent care claims for December must be received on or before Dec. 13 in order to meet both the biweekly and end of the month payrolls.

Spring tuition remission applications for part-time students must be submitted to human resources 10 days before the first day of class. Late applications will be subject to a $60 late fee.

Full-time students who are applying for acceptance in fall 1997 and who qualify for financial aid, must apply for aid on or before the February and March financial aid deadlines even though the student has not yet been accepted. Watch campus mail in January for more information about tuition remission and financial aid deadlines.

- Vicki Coscia

Online Health Help
Choosing a doctor or health plan is easier with a full understanding of the person or product you’re considering. Online information can help the decision-making process.

Find Health Net at http://www.healthnet.com/
Kaiser’s homepage is at http://www.kaiserperman.org/

Season’s Greetings and Holiday Cheer

Catch the holiday spirit and join fellow employees at seasonal events around campus.

President’s Christmas Tree Lighting
Alice B. Hayes invites all faculty, staff and administrators to join her in a special celebration she hopes will become a tradition at Alcalá Park. From 4 to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10, the USD Community Choir, directed by Stephen Sturk, will lead guests in Christmas carols as they gather around a tree on the east lawn of Maher Hall.

The president will light the tree at 4:30 p.m. and hot cider and tea will be served to enjoy while visiting with friends. The tree, new this year, will be planted in front of Maher Hall and decorated annually for the holidays.

In a different format from the past several years, President Hayes scaled down the holiday reception and will instead offer gifts to every benefits-based employee. The $10 gift certificate to Seisels Old Fashioned Meats can be used toward a turkey, roast or other groceries available at the Ashton Street market.

Family and friends are welcome at the holiday gathering. No R.S.V.P. is necessary.

SEA Holiday Reception
The Staff Employees Association’s annual open house will be 12:30 to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 11, in the Serra Hall faculty/staff lounge. Guests are invited to bring donations for this year’s charity, the Interfaith Shelter Network, which provides services to homeless families, and women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

Some of the items needed by the organization include canned goods, cleaning supplies, toys, books, games, shampoo, combs, brushes and razors. Personal hygiene items should be placed in a small, sealable plastic bag before dropping them off.

Refreshments will be served at the party. For more information, call Yolanda Castro at ext. 4520 or Anastasia Hyll at ext. 6703.

Messiah Concert
Enjoy a performance of Handel’s Messiah, 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6, in Founders Chapel. The USD Community Choir and Choral Scholars, directed by Stephen Sturk, will be accompanied by the USD Symphony, directed by Angela Yeung. The concert will repeat Saturday, Dec. 7, at 8 p.m.

Tickets are $5 for employees, students and seniors and $10 for general admission. They are available now at the Hahn University Center box office or at the door the night of the event.

Advent Mass
A special advent Mass will be held 9 p.m., Dec. 8, in the Hahn University Center Forum.

Spanish Mass
A Spanish Mass in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be held 5 p.m., Dec. 12, in Founders Chapel.

Christmas Candlelight Mass
Celebrate this special Mass 9 p.m., Dec. 18, in Founders Chapel.
SOBA Secretary a ‘True Rock’

By Jill Wagner

The youthful Margaret Peters works in an Olin Hall office surrounded by computers, copy machines and other high tech paraphernalia of the '90s. Seeing her buzz about the staff room, attending to the needs of faculty members or directing work study students, it's hard to imagine she remembers the days of crank-arm ditto machines.

"I can remember when we would type on thermal fax paper, the white sheets with purple ink, and run them off on the ditto machine," Peters recalls. "There was fluid in the machine and you would crank to roll the copy out."

Peters joined the School of Business Administration staff 20 years ago as a part-time faculty secretary. She also was a full-time mom, raising two daughters who were in elementary school. Fortunately the school grew at about the rate of her kids and by 1986, Peters was ready to go full-time when the increased number of faculty needed additional support.

She has earned the praise of co-workers since arriving at Alcala Park and this year won campus-wide recognition for her dedication when she was named a finalist for the Manuel Hernandez Employee of the Year Award.

In nominating Peters for the award, one faculty member said, "As a junior faculty member, I had to be educated about all the daily ins and outs of how things get done. Inevitably I would walk over to Margaret with a somewhat perplexed look. Never once did she snap at me or make me feel like 'two-and-a-half cents waiting for change.' Margaret is a true rock. She never complains. Her work product is superb and she is always cheerful."

That cheerfulness becomes more than apparent when Peters begins to talk about her work providing support to the faculty and students in the undergraduate honor society Beta Alpha Psi.

It is so rewarding to work with students and watch them grow, she says. "I'll always remember attending the Beta Alpha Psi banquets. Seeing the students being initiated into the organization was like seeing my own children up there."

Look Here for Your SEA Reps

A sizable crowd of staff members packed into the final meeting of the Staff Employees Association last month when new representatives were named to two-year terms. The board members represent the various buildings on campus, acting as spokespeople for the staff employees in their workplace and as liaisons between the association and their co-workers.

Staff employees are encouraged to seek out SEA reps with suggestions or questions about work policies, social events or other issues of concern. Have a grievance that you would rather not take to your supervisor? Have a great idea for a staff get-together? Call your representative.

Here are the 1997-98 SEA board representatives:

- Rosemary Dyresen
- Anastasia Hyll
- Liz Maesias
- Bill Cronan
- Robert Sporaco
- Becky Gilbert
- Kily Jones
- Kay Norton
- Amanda Ryan
- Ana Schafer
- Kirsten Strople
- Cynthia Thomas
- Pauline Thonnard
- Theresa Waldhoff
- Mary Quick
- Mary Brown
- Yolanda Castro
- Guadalupe Hall
- Guadalupe Hall
- Housing
- Hughes Center
- Hughes Center
- Hughes Center
- Physical Plant
- Physical Plant
- Copley Library
- University Center
- Founders Hall
- Olin Hall
- Bookstore
- Maher Hall
- Loma Hall
- Sports Center
- Harmon Hall
- Hughes Center
- Hughes Center
- Physical Plant
- Physical Plant
- Copley Library
- University Center
- Founders Hall
- Olin Hall
- Bookstore
- Maher Hall
- Loma Hall
- Sports Center
- Harmon Hall

The association's annual holiday party takes the place of its December meeting (see page two for details). Regular meetings will resume in January, the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. in Hahn University Center. The newly elected officers and representatives will begin their terms next month.

New Hires and Promotions (Continued from page one)

- Manuel Medina, custodial services
- Sister Juanita Meyer, C.S.J., institutional research
- Beth Purcell, development
- Heidi Carly, academic computing
- John McCluskey Jr., bursar's office
- Cynthia Slaughter, paralegal program
- Don Wroncy, master craftsman in maintenance
- Eloise Manker, executive assistant in capital programs
- Frank Romani, executive assistant in the bursar's office
- William Staninger, library assistant in Copley Library

Passages

Deaths

- Edward Yard, father of Sally Yard, chair of the fine arts department, in November.

Classifieds

- For Rent. 2 bedroom/2 bath corner house near Clairemont Square Shopping Center. Large fenced yard. Washer and dryer. On bus line to USD. Call Maria at 443-8984.
- For Sale. Immaculate condo, 1,550 sq. ft., overlooking Escondido Country Club golf course. Many upgrades, great view. $139,900. Contact Dave McCluskey at ext. 4652.
Psst ... When Rana Sampson was buried in the details of an alternative parking plan for debate week, she came up with the ultimate SAT question. She immediately called the math department. USD's brightest mathematicians and the director of public safety calculated the number of buses needed to shuttle employees and students to campus given the round-trip time from the Friars Road golf course and the peak hours drivers would be using the shuttles. The answer required many more buses than originally planned — and those of you who used the service know the results. The equivalent of 1,600 on the ol' SAT. Perfect! ... 

All right already. Enough with this health care switcharoo game. While the university's number crunchers claim to be offering us better medical and dental coverage, they seem to have lost sight of the human factor. The health care industry is intimidating enough, let alone being forced year after year to choose new doctors, learn new procedures and sort out the enrollment process. ...

Awards Honor Decades of Service

Some of these folks have been on campus since the Vietnam War. Others joined the Alcalá Park staff when disco and bell bottoms were all the rage. And others began working for USD when driving a BMW and having two kids meant you were a yuppie. All of the employees listed below exemplify the meaning of dedication and service to a job.

The university's fourth annual Service Award Celebration, held in the Hahn University Center Forum Nov. 22, paid tribute to the 46 faculty, staff and administrators who have worked on campus for 10 years or more. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

The employees honored for 10 years of service were: Margaret Ames, Azucena Balagts, Susan Benson, Pam Bourne, Kay Brown, Doug Burke, Julie D'Angelo-Fellmeth, Steven Day, Teresa Dionisio, Maria Fernandez, Willie Giles, Gary Hanson, Ruth Hastings, Roman Keating, Nancy Olson, Margie Peoples, Juliesta Pastor, Ginny Proctor, Judy Rauner, Judy Sanchez, Timothy Shaffer, Eileen Van Tassell, Manuel Vaz and Elaine Winfrey.

Fifteen-year service awards went to: Brigid Bennett, Pat Bermel, Magarita Bermudez, Susan Bugby, Pat Drinan, Ted Gosen, Seamus McFadden, Frank Orlando, Helen Picado, Judith Sandman, Libby Schiff, Darlene Smith and Monica Wagner.

Bill Hall, Karen Reed and Ruben Valdez have been on campus for 20 years. Jesus Delatorre, Roger Manion and Michael O'Cull came to work 25 years ago, about the time the two colleges merged to become USD. And Ray Brandes, Nick DeTuri and Marilyn Ramsey joined the Alcalá Park staff 30 years ago.