

InTouch

UNC Employee Forum News

Volume 2, Number 2 March 2001

From the Chair..... John Heuer

We enjoyed some good news at our March 7 Forum meeting. Vice Chancellor Nancy Suttentfield announced that the University had implemented the waiver for tuition fees for summer classes. Staff are still limited to two tuition free classes per year, but we now have the opportunity to take those classes during the summer. The application fees for Staff enrollment in UNC classes have also been waived. Thanks to the University Administration for supporting these benefits.

We also learned at our March meeting that the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee will not recommend an increase in parking or transit fees for Employees. (See "Policy Response" in this issue.)

One of the innovations our administration plans, is the creation of a new position for a Transportation Demand Manager starting in the 2001-2002 year. Here is an example of transportation demand management: Let's say that there are 500 UNC Employees in the Burlington-Graham area. That could translate into 500 vehicle round trips to campus, and a demand for 500 parking spaces. Or, it could mean 50 - 10 passenger van trips to campus work sites. With varying work schedules, fewer buses and vans (and drivers) would be needed for such a transit plan. This sort of an effort could have considerable potential benefit for both regional air quality, and for Employees. What are some of the potential benefits to Employees? Not to have to own and maintain that extra vehicle; Stretch the life of your vehicle by reducing accumulated miles; Reduce the stress of the commute. Nap, read, or just relax, instead of battling traffic;

InTouch: UNC Employee Forum News is published ten times per year and covers news from the Forum as well as questions and concerns from the Staff. This newsletter is compiled by the UNC Employee Forum Communications Committee and is edited by Suzan deSerres. We hope you enjoy it and find it useful. If you would like to make general comments concerning the newsletter or help us identify specific issues or topics to be addressed, please direct them to Matt Banks at the Forum Office, or to Suzan deSerres, Chair of the Communications Committee (sdes@med.unc.edu).

Provide opportunities for social interaction and networking.

One of the major hurdles to Employees' reliance on public transportation, particularly for those with children in school or day care, is how to insure reliable transit should their children need emergency transportation. This is also true for those who already park and ride to work from remote parking lots. One of the tasks of a transportation demand manager is to coordinate incentives for the total reduction of miles driven, and parking spaces required, while emphasizing utilization of reliable public transportation. The transportation demand manager will address these kinds of complex challenges.

As of this writing, over 2,500 faculty and staff have responded to the UNC-CH health plan survey. We have had a lively exchange with some members of the campus community, over concerns that the results of the survey could be used to the detriment of Employees. The issues of protection of Employee's privacy, and the appropriateness of survey methodologies have also been raised. I look forward to further discussion of these important issues.

Our April Forum meeting will feature the introduction of Barbara Delon, our new Director of Employee Services, and her staff members, Anne Aldridge and Wanda Weaver. I encourage each of you to join us in the Pleasants Assembly Room at Wilson Library, on Wednesday, April 4th, 9:30 AM, to hear from our new Employee Services Director and her staff.

And finally, a hearty welcome to Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, Robert Shelton. Provost Shelton was introduced by Chancellor Moeser at the February Forum meeting. He is the first person to hold both the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor position. We welcome him, and wish him well.

Delegate Promotions

The Forum welcomes Freida Rosenberg and Betty Waynick as new Delegates from Division 1. Tom Rhyme is promoted to Delegate from Division 2, with Gary Cocker moving to First Alternate. Jo Parker is promoted in Division 5, with Anita Wright becoming First Alternate. Congratulations and welcome to you all!

Pining For Pins

All former Forum Delegates are reminded and strongly urged to claim their hard-earned Forum Pin. If you have not yet received your pin, all you have to do is call the Forum Office. Matt Banks will send it to you. Wear it with pride!

Your Forum Delegates are here to help you. Please feel free to contact one of us or the Forum Office if you have comments, questions, or issues for discussion by the Employee Forum.

Delegate	Phone	CB#	Div
Chris Barfield	6-7328	7470	6
GeorgeAnn Bissett	2-1236	3480	1
Anita Booth	2-0153	3914	1
Keita Cannon	3-8217	1150	8
Andy Chrismon	2-1633	8700	2
David Collins	6-9254	7235	5
Linda Collins	6-0957	7585	1
Suzan deSerres	6-8548	7210	8
Sue Dodson	3-6791	3210	6
Lee Edmark	6-5745	1830	8
Keith Fogleman	2-3962	1800	3
Jeffrey Fuchs	2-5695	3320	1
Pam Griffin	6-8960	7520	7
Tracey Haith	6-3245	7400	5
Glenn Haugh	2-5566	1110	7
John Heuer	2-9023	1800	7
Tom Jenswold	2-2069	1800	2
Fred Jordan	2-1765	3175	7
Karen Jordan	6-3039	7360	5
Ramona Kellam	6-3541	7455	5
Sheila King	2-5945	3280	4
Gary Lloyd	2-9857	2100	7
Connie McPherson	2-7145	1600	8
John Meeker	2-0031	7360	8
Jo Parker	6-2736	7450	5
Clarence Peoples	2-3962	1800	3
Gail Plaisance	2-7081	7455	5
Tom Rhyme	2-4165	1800	2
Cathy Riley	2-7355	8040	7
Wendy Riley	2-5762	1250	8
Frieda Rosenberg	2-2050	3914	1
Rob Sadler	2-2069	1800	2
Jean Skelton	6-5851	1150	8
Sheila Storey	6-2795	7450	9
Diane Strong	2-2287	3420	6
Darian Sturdivant	2-1086	1800	3
Bonita Summers	2-7693	3380	4
Kay Teague	6-3693	7050	5
Joanne Terry	2-0171	3914	4
Robert Thoma	2-9026	1800	7
Elaine Tola	2-9434	3450	8
Mary Ann Vacheron	2-4417	3380	4
Chanetta Washington	6-0355	3411	8
Betty Waynick	2-9692	3914	1
Sylvia White	2-9276	3100	9

2001 Forum Officers:

Forum Chair John E. Heuer
 Forum Vice Chair Sheila Storey
 Forum Secretary Tracey Haith

Forum Assistant:

Matt Banks 2-3779 3488

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POLICY RESPONSE

TPAC RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the capitol improvement building campaign currently underway on campus, the Transit and Parking Advisory Committee was charged with making recommendations to the University on how to improve Campus Transit and Parking. We spoke with Carolyn Elfland and Linda Carl to find out more about the recommendations.

What can be done to encourage more folks to utilize the park-and-ride lots instead of parking on campus?

We are recommending that transit service to the park-and-ride lots operate until 8:00 PM. Additionally, we are planning to contract for the use of another park-and-ride lot in the 15-501 corridor that will contain approximately 100 spaces.

Will improvements be made to the transit service in town or on campus?

We are recommending one of the following two scenarios for 2001-2002:

If Chapel Hill and Carrboro do not agree to fare free transit, implementation improvements in on-campus transit including (1) a shuttle to the 720-725 Airport Road complex, the Facilities Services complex, and the P parking lot, (2) a shuttle to the Friday Center/Hedrick Building area and the park-and-ride lot, (3) a third main campus shuttle route including the Law School, and (4) a shuttle to 440 West Franklin.

If Chapel Hill and Carrboro do agree to fare free transit, implement fare free transit and a scaled-down package of on-campus transit improvements.

What will happen in 2002-2003?

If fare free transit was implemented in 2001-2002, fully implement on-campus transit improvements, if fare free transit was not implemented in 2001-2002, implement fare free transit. If fare free transit is not implemented in either year, TPAC will develop alternative recommendations.

How much will all these transit improvements cost and how will they be funded?

The funding required for the 2001-2002 improvements is \$1.0 million if no fare free transit, \$1.5 million if fare free transit. \$500,000 will be obtained from the following miscellaneous increases and changes: increase conference parking rates from \$2 per day to \$5 per day; increase temporary daily permit rates from \$3 per day to \$5 per day; increase the late fee for citation non-payment from \$5 to \$10; discontinue discount coupons for visitor lots; raise meter rates from \$0.75 to \$1 per hour (the present town rate); and require all state vehicles to purchase parking permits (presently only 11% are required to do so). \$500,000 will come as a permanent contribution from the University to fund on-campus transit improvements. This will be in the form of a charge to all departments equal to 0.00052% of all salaries and wages, object codes 1100 through 1400. The final \$500,000 will be a temporary bridge contribution from the University Budget Committee to fund fare free transit if approved by the towns in 2001-2002.

What about funding for 2002-2003?

If fare free transit is approved, \$500,000 will come from the student transit fee, and an additional \$500,000 will come from a matching Employee contribution - either a transit fee or a parking permit price increase.

Can we expect any other improvements?

Yes, we are also recommending the following improvements for 2001-2002: hire Transportation Demand Management Coordinator; repair P Lot, improve utilization; working with Town of Chapel Hill, submit grant for Friday Center park-and-ride deck; investigate options for park-and-ride in the 15-501 corridor; investigate the possibility of a park-and-ride location in Durham served by TTA; begin design process for PR Lot expansion; develop pilot teleworking program; develop emergency ride-back program for Chapel Hill Transit users; develop a bike improvement plan, including designing bike lockers in Rams Head Deck; construct temporary Ehringhaus Field parking before Rams Head construction begins; and study ridership on Chapel Hill Transit by route, to identify routes for headway improvement.

A Week to bring together students, faculty, and staff to celebrate Women!

UNC-CH will hold its fourth annual Women's Week, March 26-30, 2001. Women's Week, which falls during nationally recognized Women's History Month, is an effort of UNC-CH students, faculty and staff, as well as outside organizations. Highlights will include a Take Back the Night March, featuring a speak-out and healing ceremony; a poetry reading; and talks on topics ranging from women and spirituality to violence prevention to women's health to song lyrics. Week-long events are planned. All events are free and open to the public. Look for the complete calendar of events on the web at <http://www.unc.edu/womenscenter/week2001.html>