

Faculty Senate

RESOLUTION

Proposed by

Faculty Affairs Committee and Executive Committee

October 13, 1971

The Faculty Senate is deeply dismayed that President Hoffman chose to announce a new parking policy on September 29th without giving the faculty any opportunity to review it, either in substance or rationale. The President had previously assured us of this opportunity.

Our principal concern at this time is not with the substance of President Hoffman's policy but with the manner in which the administration arrives at its decisions about matters involving faculty affairs. With respect to parking, one could argue that it is entirely an administrative matter. We were led to believe differently. Last May, after receiving a carefully worked out parking proposal from the Faculty Senate, the administration assured the Senate that the faculty would be consulted on any decisions made about this volatile issue. [They even spoke of a series of presentations on the parking problem to be held for the faculty this Fall Semester.)

In spite of these assurances the administration on August 10 informed the Senate Executive Committee of their intention to institute faculty/staff parking fees beginning with the Fall Semester. The only reason suggested was financial need. The Executive Committee stressed the need to wait until the Senate reconvened so that it could review any such proposal.

The Fall Semester arrived with no parking fees. ] At its first meeting on September 15 the Senate endorsed the action of its Executive Committee during the summer and indicated that the Faculty Affairs Committee should prepare to discuss the problem with the administration. Although the representative of the administration was present at that meeting, he did not indicate that any other course of action was contemplated. On

September 27, however, Vice President Fields asked to meet the next day with the Senate's Executive and Faculty Affairs committees. Those senators who could attend were handed page-proof copies of President Hoffman's statement on parking that was distributed in a special edition of Acta Diurna on September 29. This meeting was convened, we were told, as a courtesy. This one day's advance notice cannot by any stretch of the imagination be considered the consultation which the Senate believed it had been promised by the administration. ~~It constitutes the most blatant form of tokenism.~~

As one of many issues facing the University community, parking certainly ranks low. It has already taken the time and efforts of far too many. However, we feel compelled to speak out. The handling of this issue has shaken our confidence in the administration's willingness and ability to cooperate with the students and faculty in the University community. This leaves us with a deep feeling of misgiving for the future governance of this University. We cannot see how a restructuring of governance can bring about any significant improvement over the status quo if the "consultations" about parking are an example of the administration's concept of shared authority.