



**75<sup>th</sup> Student Senate**  
**Sustainability AD HOC Committee**  
**April 3<sup>rd</sup>**, <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/98991170555>

**Call to Order:** 3:03 PM

**Members Present:** Rania Chehaitli, Carson Dale, Megan Bettley, Cole Kahrier, Keagan Barrett

**Guests:** Gene Cillufo, Will Hanley, Mario A, Nia Ogletree

Keagan Barrett: I know that we have a visitor from the faculty senate that wanted to inform us about some stuff today. So I'll just let you go ahead and speak first so that you can continue on with your day. So you can start whenever you're ready.

Will Hanley:

Great. Thanks very much for meeting with me on like total last minute the guy knows some of you from even from my kids, Nia. Okay, so I I'm the one that I'm profiting history from and I'm on the faculty senate Sustainability Committee. In generally speaking, we've heard a bit about your work and hope to have like a more formal relationship with you guys and meet together with you. And I just saw that you had a meeting today and have something I want to get your thoughts on before the end of the academic year, so I'm just sort of jumping the gun here, but I hope that your work will continue and I hope that we can learn about what you're doing and you can learn about what we're doing and we can combine combined forces a little bit we we started the faculty senate cyst Sustainability Committee, in part in response to student requests that faculty do a little bit more about this. But we haven't really looped back to you guys very much. So I hope we can build the relationship a bit more. But I don't want to say anything more about that. Now, I just want to talk to you about this book, this very specific issue which is a paid parking permit. And so I'm just going to maybe take 10 minutes and explain what I know about this. And then I would love to hear any thoughts or feedback you guys have. Can I share my screen? Is that something that I can that I can do?

Keagan:

See, yes, I can give you I think I have to give you cohost okay. It should pop up at the bottom now. Yeah, the share screen okay. Yeah amazing.

Will Hanley:

Let's see. Cool course. Okay, I'll just do it this way. Granted tax. So dear. Okay. I'm every stereotype about incompetence I'm filling in here. I'll get there. Okay. Yes. Okay, good. I have to quit. And reopen. Okay, I'll be right back

Carson:

for those of you guys who don't know while we're waiting, this is also Gene from the Sustainability Office. There. Also a guest today.

Gene:

Everyone, I know almost all of you, but excited to be here. Sustainable cables in SGA have actually done a lot together this year. In wanting Carson have been super, super helpful in supporting us especially with our recent Gartner innovation. And we at sustainable campus are trying to say like more in touch with like all the students on campus who are doing sustainability things and the future so next fall, we're actually going to be starting a student sustainability coalition or like people who are in like sustainability oriented orgs. So we can kind of like stay up to date on what each other are doing. So that's something that I will definitely invite SGA to do in the fall but for now just trying to learn more about why and then obviously answer any questions that anyone has.

Will Hanley:

Yeah, sorry to sorry to jump the gun gene on that. Okay, sorry. And sorry that I was not up to speed but I think I should be able to do this now. Oh, I guess I need to be given permission again. I'm sorry. Um, yeah, yeah, at the bottom Yeah. Thanks. Okay. All right. So now what I have here, I hope is a little PowerPoint ish thing. Yeah. Okay. So you guys see my main slide now. Now, do you see a slide that says the problem on it? Yes. Okay. So, you guys probably already know this, but student transportation fees include a parking permit at no additional cost and we are different from just about every other university in Florida and in the southeast in that regard. And, you know, the way I mean, the list, the way that I see it, if we use parking permits, like all of our peer institutions, it would have at least four effects. One of them was is that it would discourage unnecessary car used and associated pollution and traffic danger, which is, you know, a sustainability agenda. But it would have other effects. One of them is that it would untie the hands of parking services management, who are not in a position really to address the problem of availability of parking because they're really constrained because almost all of the money that they collect goes to servicing the debt on the garages that were

built a long time ago. And so they're really constrained by by bond debt also by you know, having to supply like a similar level of service to everybody and a few other things. There is an equity argument here although I guess I'm can't use the word equity anymore. So let's say fairness, about a subsidy and this has been going on for, you know, a couple of decades 18,000 There are about 18,000 students who, who don't take out the permit every year, which means they don't have a car so they could get it for free. But they don't take it out because they don't have a car. And these students who we can presume are for the most part in a lower economic bracket than those who do have cars are really subsidizing the 24,000 students who do have cars. So I mean, I think as as student leaders, this is a fairly large constituency who is being not well served by by a flat common parking transportation fee without a paid permit. So a paid permit would redress that subsidy. And yeah, and then finally, it would mean that FSU would no longer be the outlier among its peers in being the only one without this. Okay, so the political problem as I see it, parking services clearly wants this. The administration was on board to do this Thrasher actually had a proposal just at the just in the last spring he was president, but he pulled this proposal in its final stages and he pulled it. My understanding is because he because the trustees pose what they saw as a new fee, and he didn't want to go up against them on this front. I think that one of the solutions to that is to make sure that we're clear that it's not a fee, but is a paid permit, which people have an option to take or not. But that's you know, that's a bit of the political past of it. And I think the administration is reluctant to move forward with it at this particular moment, again, for for various political reasons. No one cares what faculty thinks that's one of the aspects of politics that you know, we scratch our head head, heads about but I mean, I'm pretty convinced and others are too that really only a student led movement will be able to push for this and that students would have to communicate with the trustees. And, you know, convince them that this is not a fee but an optional pay permit and that it's going to be of benefit to the university. And that is something that that students and their leaders support. That's presuming, of course, that students and their leaders do support it. And you know, that's a political problem that you know, that I think I'm interested in knowing what what you guys think about okay, here is a table, which parking services produced, which compares to similar universities and contains their proposed fees. So in the, in the fifth and sixth columns, the first row there is the proposed fee. And you can see that that this fee is lower than almost all the other fees in the state. And I have another table which I can share with you, which has the transportation the various transportation fees on it, which are, you know, fairly similar at all the at all the other at the various institutions. But you can see, you know, there's a range of different different paid fees. There's only going to be one in their proposal. There's only one permit fee, so they don't differentiate between commuter fees and overnight fees, which makes sense in in our context. This reserve student fee is already in place as far as I understand. I'm not sure how many people are

using that. Okay, and then the last slide here is just a couple of details. Yeah. one of the one of the interesting things that I learned from Parkland service services is that that the new apartments that are being built on the south and west side of campus are are building. They're managing not to build parking garages on their property because they know that students can just park in direct. adjacent FSU parking garages. And so they're really being used kind of as warehouses. People park their cars and just leave them there. And it seems Well, it's interesting that real estate developers can can get away with using this this public good, you know, to subsidize their their developments. But there is a bond out on the parking garages and one of the things I'm trying to figure out now is how much that is and how much how much the fee actually goes to, to servicing that debt. There are answers to that that you know, that I hope to figure out to be able to provide to you guys. It seems to me that one of the things to be determined if students are, you know, to if some students support this or if there is to be doodle support about this, or you know what the carrots and sticks are in this in this change. So, I mean, my personal politics are like, you know, think that this makes sense on its own. But I, but I don't think that that is like there has to be some sort of positive thing out of it. for for people to for it to get widespread support and I don't know what that would look like I mean maybe it's better parking ability availability would probably happen because presumably 1000s of students who barely use their cars would not bring their car to campus and so there'd be would choose not to pay for a permit and there would be more spaces as a result. So, parking might be easier If there would be more money in circulation so bus times could buses could certainly become more frequent and a proposal could work out very specifically what the what the increase in parking availability or bus frequency would be another possibility that I don't that parking services doesn't like but you know I think might appeal to students is moving is reducing the transportation see and offsetting it with with that makes some sense to me but, you know, would require a trustee approval, I think any change in fees requires their approval, but those strike me as three possible carrots that that might appeal to students. So yeah, so that's very briefly what I have to say I have more details about some of this stuff, but but that's the general line of what I'm interested in. And I just love to know what you guys might think about this. If you have thoughts or advice or anything of that sort. Thanks for this thing to me.

Keagan:

I am just going to ask one thing of you. Is there any way that you could possibly send a link for that PowerPoint in this zoom chat, just so that we can like save it for our notes?

Will Hanley

Yeah, and I'll I'll maybe I'll add the slide with with more comparative with more comparative numbers on it, but I'll put it in the chat right now.

Keagan:

Okay, thank you so much. And Megan, you have a question.

Megan:

Yes, I have a comment and two questions if that's okay. The first comment is you had mentioned how FSU is an outlier. And I had previously served as a university ambassador, where I gave tours to hundreds of students and every single tour there was at least two to three families that were happy that FSU was an outlier. comments that they were glad that their students who were either out of state or low income would be able to park on campus, where at other universities they cannot. So my first question is, is there any sort of data showing? Maybe how this would impact admissions or students decisions to come here? Because from my personal experience, parking has been won free parking has been one of the things that brings students to campus not the only thing of course, FSU has much more to offer. But it is a big consideration that students have when choosing University.

Will Hanley:

Okay. I don't know anything about that. But that's, that's helpful. Yeah.

Megan:

And then my other question is, I was just wondering, like, what apartments in particular if you had any data on that because I do live on the south side of campus. And as far as I'm aware, a lot of the apartment complexes do have parking, at least I live at one of the apartment complexes where there's like, six or seven different apartment complexes and each of them have their own individual parking. The issue that I've seen is that there's not enough parking spaces for the amount of residents. And I personally didn't have parking at one of my apartment complexes for a few months but also on the south side of campus. There are FSU locks that have been when I was a freshman they were FSU logs, and now they're private logs that students can pay a monthly fee to park in. And so I was wondering whether FSU had sold those logs. And if they had why they chose to sell the lots rather than fix them up to kind of have more spaces available for students to park.

Will Hanley:

Okay, that's, that's great. I mean, I'll try to figure out some answers to these questions. It's really interesting. And I'm, I'm really hot like, I ride my bicycle everywhere. And so I have no idea about these things. So thanks for I don't propagandize my own students about it. So I really appreciate learning about these. Thanks, Megan. Is there more?

Megan:

Oh, yeah, um, I actually do have a little bit more. So I was just wondering too, is there currently enough students spaces to I know you said that not all students take advantage of the free parking. But if we were to pay, say, worst case scenario, a lot of students want it like, is there a way to ensure that every single student that pays will be provided a parking space? And then also, I was not in Senate? I think it was over the summer when this occurred. So if anyone was in summer Senate, maybe they can provide some more clarification. But a large issue that people had with the reserved parking was that it kind of puts our low income students at a severe disadvantage. So I was just wondering, if parking were to become paid for would there be any sort of waiver or financial assistance, specifically for those students that tend to live 1015 minutes off campus because that rent is significantly cheaper than the ones that have a five tenant minute walk? So if they are already choosing to live farther away from campus, because they can't afford to live close? How can they pay for parking? So just wondering if there would be like a waiver or any sort of like financial assistance for those that would need it? But that's all I had.

Will Hanley:

Okay, great. That's That's great. The only I think that there my understanding is that there will not there are not like say we start a paid parking permit and 20,000 people want to take it out there or not 20,000 spaces, but the parking management people part of what they do is, you know, to figure out distribution of that sort of thing, but so, you know, they'd be able to answer that better. And I can take that to them, but I think that yeah, the short answer is that they're not 24 20,000 parking spaces.

Thanks, Megan.

Rania:

Yeah, thank you. Um, I had similar concerns to the previous Senator regarding low income students, and also just like, space in general, since we know that there aren't enough parking spaces to accommodate all students, or even 20,000 I definitely don't know if this was like a great idea considering if it was on a first come first serve basis. The people who would have the information ready have the money ready would be the students who would probably also be living closer to campus because the grant is, as the previous centers have said, significantly more expensive to be walking distance to FSU campus. I wanted to address a comment you made about money in circulation and how having money from parking permits would place more money in circulation in order to revamp the bus system. To my knowledge institutions like FSU, who tickets students pretty frequently and don't even offer forgiveness for the first parking ticket. These institutions make millions off of these students like I'm pretty sure the University of Alabama made like something crazy like \$30 million dollars off students in one one leg

school year. You would have to fact check that I don't know if that's like true, but I know that there definitely is a lot of money that comes out of the parking system already as it is as it is flawed. I was wondering if there's also I have like a similar question about the waiver, like a waiver for students who can prove that they live far and do commute to class. I know I live about a 15 minute drive away from campus and I know a lot of other students do similarly. But the current status for parking permits and forgive me if this was already addressed in your presentation because I got here a little late. Is five cars per permit for free. Why not entertain something like only two or three cars rather than making this paid? for everybody? I don't know. I just feel like there's ways to go about it. Like maybe for students who live on campus. It would be an additional fee. But I just feel like there's ways to go about this without disadvantaging every student, especially every low income students. So if you have any thoughts on any yeah, that's all I have to say.

Will Hanley:

Can you just clarify the last the last thing you said five cars per permit for free or two cars? What do you mean by that?

Rania:

Okay, so basically, as it stands, when you go into your FSU parking permit, you can add five cars so five cars can be registered under one permit. I have used this for obviously my mom when she came to help me move in from my dorm so she didn't get a ticket because those tickets out up and also just like people use them for when their parents comes to visit cetera. So rather than having five cars for my why not reduced the number of cars per permit instead of adding an upcharge for parking if you feel that people are like taking advantage of the fact that there are parking lots close to campus for people who are not even coming here to go to school.

Megan:

Yeah, I just had a point of clarification. So as it stands, yes, students can register five cars for free under their FSU account. They're also only supposed to put one on campus at a time. However, in my personal experience that has not been enforced. So whether that looks like if students have three cars parked on campus, ticketing two of them or maybe making it to like the previous senator said basically right now all five of those cars can be parked on campus with no repercussions in my personal experience, but I did just want to clarify that there is something in the parking system when you register that says that only one can be actively parked on campus on time. Out of Time. It's just not regulated or enforced at all.

Will Hanley:

Okay, thanks. Rania. I'll just say about you know, you you've given me more useful information here and I mean, frankly, a lot of these things I'm gonna go to parking services and trying I think it'll be useful to have like an FAQ page answering a lot of these. So I'll see what they say about it, because I just don't know the answer. As far as the question of low income students. I mean, I think it's I think it's, this is complex, but the whole the whole question is complex. But one thing that I think is clear, it seems to me is clear is that the current system is not serving low income students particularly well. Because these 18,000 students who don't take out parking permits are subsidizing those who do so. I mean, part of the part of the question, I guess, would be trying to figure out you know how to make an equation between between the two the two problems, but I think, yeah, the current, you know, the current system, the current system is not perfect, either. That's, that's all I would say about that. But yeah, thanks. Thanks, Rania.

Carson Dale:

Yeah, I just had a couple like clarifying things. Where was the like, specific number that you got for the fee? Was that like what Parking Services said would be the proposed amount?

Will Hanley:

Yeah, it's a proposal they've been circulating in budget requests

Carson Dale:

Do you think there's any, like leeway and maybe like, we can get that to go down and make it a little bit more accommodating for students? Or I mean, maybe in combination with also like the fee waivers for lower income students?

Will Hanley:

Yeah, I mean, I basically my reading of this and this is only my reading, but I've been paying attention to it for a while is that this is not going to happen unless students are interested in it. And I mean, Parking Services has certainly been trying, and I don't think they're really getting anywhere. So my sense is that all of this is open for negotiation because what they want is for something to happen

Carson Dale:

that makes sense. And then also, was the fee gonna be per semester per year?

Will Hanley:



I should know the answer to that, but I don't, but I will. I'll include another slide in the in the PowerPoint with with the current situation at other places, and that that should make it clear. Sorry, I don't know the answer.

Carson Dale:

No, no worries at all. And then last thing, you talked a little bit about the transportation fee and how that would have to be adjusted by the Board of Trustees. What is that the I don't know if I should know this? But like, what is the transportation fee that you're talking about?

Will Hanley:

It Like It's I think it's \$8.90 per credit hour that all students pay you know, as part of their student fees, so any increase would certainly have to be agreed by the by the Board of Trustees and they won't be interested in that. But, you know, perhaps a decrease if if part of the package that that might not get negotiated here for equity would be would be decreasing that fee you know, which would be one way of addressing this, I suppose. Maybe that's something that they would have to get to and it's not every university that in the Florida State University system that charges 890 per credit hour, I think some charge a little bit more and some charge a fair bit less and then have much larger permit fees. That makes sense. Thank you. Thanks, Carson. Oh, yeah,

Cole Kahrier:

I just want to say that I really do love this proposal. I know there's your there's a lot of criticism out there. But um, I just wanted to say that like, I'm thinking of my friends that are low income, they don't have cars. This doesn't apply to them. They have to carpool to school every single day or take the bus. So if we're able to you know, charged people who can't afford cars and can't afford gas every week, then you know, and then improve our you know, bus systems then those people that don't have cars can get to school easier. You know, I walked to class almost every single day my both all my roommates do too. We live close to campus so it works. For us. You know, I think that sometimes, you know, when I see people in my apartment that like drive, took like two seconds to school every day and then sit in traffic and like, you know, the emissions are real and I think, I don't know I think everything about this, you know, proposal is is going to help students I do think like, you know, if there is low income students with cars, like maybe there could be a way for them to, like, have that fee waived. But I think if you're live on campus or near campus, you should not be bringing your car to campus every single day and there should be a fee and we should be improving our public transportation. So that's all I have to say about that. So thank you for coming and proposing this to us.

Will Hanley: Thanks. Cool. And I'll just say Yeah, another kind of information that I've wished to gather is about how student residence has changed since the time that all these parking garages were built. So when they were built, and I think the last one was completed maybe 10 or 12 years ago. The model was these student housing complexes. Which were often 15 minutes away. And all of the student housing on south of campus on Gaines Street is really of the last decade. And this has meant that it's realistic to think of people walking like you do in a way that it just wasn't 10 years ago so that there's been a real shift in where students live. You know, which, which I think facilitates this but I will say I mean, this is on a different topic. Nobody's taking care of the pedestrian pathways between south of campus and and campus. I mean, it's just pathetic. And you know, I've worked on that on another front to try to get some improvements there. But it's it's nobody's responsibility. Apparently. It's not the city. It's not the it's not FSU. You know, and so, I mean, I would like to see some money put into that as well. Because, you know, it's it's a holistic problem. Anyway, thanks. Thanks. Cool. MEGAN

Nia: Would the transportation fee go away?

Will Hanley: All the money is going towards financing the parking garage debt.

Will Hanley: If we want this to continue will things shut down after April because of student politics?

Keagan: I don't know how long the ad hoc will be here, we will continue as a senate through the summer however, if you want to stay in communication with us, I'm sure our senate president and pro temp can help with the communications on all that.

Sam: We can definitely continue to have these conversations over the summer, I'm not planning on staying over the summer but we can ensure that whoever takes over keeps the initiative going

Will: I will update the slides, and thank you for letting me speak, I'll try and get these questions answered and then get back to you, I hope we can eventually talk about things other than parking permits between faculty and student senate.

Keagan: I would like to move forward on the convos outside of this, does anybody else have any last things to add?

Megan: If we want to do the polling we should probably get on that asap.

Keagan: we would want to make sure that we do it in a strategic way because obviously if the question is just do you want a fee, then it won't pass.

Sam: Nimna has access to a poll on myFSU or we can do fall elections

Rania: Could we do an email?

Sam: It's possible but it might be pushing it

Keagan: I hope we can have the new person for sustainability in the cabinet push this forward, Carson did you have something you wanted to say?

Carson: Yes! I just wanted to update that I put the Senate Projects request on first reading and that should be going through soon!

Gene: Yes and the reason that is so expensive is the wood that has to be used for the growing of the food in the garden.

Keagan: Gene would you be open for collaboration with the chuck it day?

Gene: The way we do it is collect, put everything in a warehouse, and then we open it up to local orgs to be able to come and choose what they want, especially charities, and we can always use people to volunteer if you're interested in that at all.

Keagan: Perfect thank you, I think we would definitely be interested in having people assist with the moving end of things.

Megan: We especially wanted to focus on the apartment side of things, reduce waste of perfectly good things,

Gene: We don't currently do off-campus things, but we would be receptive to taking things people bring on campus from off campus. We would also appreciate help with advertising chuck it day and also showing people how they can donate on their own.

Keagan: We were thinking we could have flyers posted in apartments and have people come and pick things up who are involved with SGA move things over to campus.

Gene: I will check with the person who leads chuck it and get back to you on that

Megan: Another thing to consider is that a lot of these places are owned by the same person that might help streamline the process if we were to be in communication with them and get them on board with assisting.

Keagan: Mario do you want to say something before you leave?

Mario: We reached out through PIRG to some platinum rated universities on sustainability and they said that we should get reusable cups and plates for events for RSOs. Just an idea not sure how to move forward from there.

Keagan: I was going to ask if you had reached out about the aluminum cups and gotten a response.

Mario: I have to go, I did not get a response, thank you, bye guys.

Keagan: Last week Mario had reached out to coke about seeing what we could do about getting more reusable things on campus and we had discussed trying to get reusable cups at a specific sporting complex.

Carson: Be on the lookout for a resolution on stopping burning of sugarcane leaves

Megan: This is my last meeting as a senator, but I may come back, and see you guys in coming weeks, definitely an interesting meeting

Gene: Thank you for the invitation, its nice to communicate with yu all and hear from a student end on all this

Keagan: Thank you to all the work you guys do, we need you all.

Carson: Thanks for coming gene, and Megan thanks for your service,

Keagan: Meeting adjourned, bye yall

**Adjourned:**

**4:03**

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**Signature of Chair [Name]**