

June 10, 2003

TO: UNH Community

FR: Ann Weaver Hart, President

RE: Transportation Policy Committee Report

On February 10, 2003, the University of New Hampshire Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) conveyed to me its final report and recommendations. Shortly thereafter, the report and the accompanying recommendations were distributed broadly throughout the University and posted on the web. The TPC was made up of representatives of the faculty, staff, student body, and Town of Durham and was assisted by staff from Campus Planning, Facilities, Durham, the UNH Police Department, Sustainability Programs, and the UNH Department of Transportation.

The TPC, chaired by Vice President Candace Corvey, completed its report and formulated its recommendations after conducting an extensive, eighteen month examination of the complex transportation issues facing the University and after consulting broadly with all constituents of the University. Following the release of the report, the Committee began a comprehensive process through which it secured and compiled feedback.

The goal of the committee was:

to guide the University toward a systemic transportation management plan that emphasizes health and safety, efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and fairness for all University constituents, consistent with priorities set by the Strategic Academic Plan and the Master Plan, and that focuses on both the supply and demand characteristics of transportation.

The Committee based its analysis and conclusions on the principles of Transportation Demand Management, a comprehensive conceptual approach to analyzing transportation systems that addresses the challenges of parking and transportation from both the demand and supply sides. It also focused on environmental, aesthetic, and sustainability issues, as well as cost, efficiency, and effectiveness.

I commend the full report to all of you who have not yet read it. It provides a compelling analysis of the transportation problem at UNH and a careful rationale for the recommendations of the Committee. The report can be found on the web at <http://www.unh.edu/transportation/TPC/index.htm>. Hard copies of the report can be obtained from the UNH Transportation Office.

In the final analysis, the Committee concluded its report by expressing the collective belief that the current status of parking and transportation at UNH is structurally irrational and unacceptable and must change. I concur.

After carefully reviewing both the initial report and a detailed account of the feedback collected by the Committee subsequent to the release of the report, I have concluded that the recommendations of the Committee should be accepted, and that the University should aim to implement these recommendations on July 1, 2004 with the following exceptions:

- The University should work to assure that permit fees are assessed as a pre-tax, deductible cost to employees to reduce their net cost.
- The annual cost of a permit for Zone 1 and Zone 2 campus resident students should be equalized at \$600 and for Resident Hall Directors should be equalized at \$400.
- The University should not move at the present time to establish an additional 200 reserved spaces available to individuals by lottery.

Additionally, I have asked Vice President Candace Corvey to prepare an assessment of ways in which the University might mitigate, where appropriate, some of the economic impact of the implementation of the higher fees on selected employees.

Some of the recommendations of the Committee as they apply to faculty are subject to collective bargaining between the University System of New Hampshire and the University of New Hampshire American Association of University Professors. As recommended by the Transportation Policy Committee, I will not ask our students and non-unionized employees to accept the proposed changes unless our faculty agree to those recommendations.

I offer my sincere thanks to the members of the Transportation Policy Committee for their work on behalf of the University. I look forward to working with the campus community to solve this ubiquitous and chronic problem.