

University parking project has WISTEC worried

■ Proposed plan could take revenue from WISTEC

By Darren Freeman
Oregon Daily Emerald

City Council will hear public input Monday night on a transportation plan that could replace the 1,375 additional parking places the city requires for the expansion of Autzen Stadium.

The major point of contention is the placement of a bus transit center on a city parking lot used by the nearby Willamette Science

and Technology Center. WISTEC has asked its supporters to oppose the plan because the center makes about one-third of its annual revenue selling season



parking passes to football fans for use of the lot. If the University of Oregon builds a transit center on this site, WISTEC would lose about 200 of its 555 parking spaces and as much as \$26,000 each year.

"We support the expansion project, but we'd like to see the University put the station on its own property," WISTEC Executive.

Director Meg Trendler said. Science center supporters have sent city councilors at least 75 e-mails, 25 hand-written letters and numerous phone calls. In addition, City Council members received 11 letters last week, which will be read at Monday's forum in City Hall, said city spokesman Phil Weiler.

The University has offered to pay WISTEC for the lost revenue, but the amount of money and the length of the agreement are still in

dispute.

"It's the University's opinion that the WISTEC lot is the best option, and the city and transit district agree," said Steve McBride, assistant athletic director of internal operations. "We're offering to pay them in full. We want to make sure WISTEC won't be hurt by the expansion."

The non-profit science center uses the parking revenue to fund general operations, and Trendler fears the money couldn't be replaced via other fundraisers.

"This is a town that's full of non-profits and fund-raising

events," she said. "This is a good way for us to use our location."

The WISTEC lot, one of three sites considered for the transit center, was chosen because, among other reasons, it allows buses to line up along Leo Harris Parkway and provides enough space to separate pedestrians, buses, cars and bikes, said Eugene senior planner Allen Lowe.

The hearing will be held Monday night at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Participants may speak for three minutes.

Going back to school

■ Duncan McDonald will return to teaching in the School of Journalism and Communication in Sept. 2001

By Simone Ripke
Oregon Daily Emerald

While University students were preparing to return to the classroom mid-September, the University's Vice President of Public Affairs and Development announced that he was also going to do just that, once his current term expires next June.

Duncan McDonald, who has been in his current position since 1997, said he had always planned to end his career where he had launched it — in the classroom, surrounded by students.

"I began it in the classroom and I would like to finish it in the classroom," he said. "When all is said and done, I'm first and foremost a professor."

McDonald began his teaching career at the University in 1978 after working as a reporter and editor for a number of publications. He eventually left the classroom to become the School of Journalism and Communication's dean and was offered the position of vice president in 1997.

In the past academic year, McDonald has led the University to an all-time record in fundraising, one of the areas he oversees. However, his desire to return to teaching influenced him to not renew his contract.

"Come the fall of 2001, it will truly be 10 years since I've been in the classroom," he said.

McDonald said he enjoyed his terms as an administrator though his position has been challenging. He said he told University President Dave Frohnmayer of his teaching plans in 1999.

"I said...it's very likely that in 2001, I will want to return to teaching," he said.

Announcing his decision early will be key to launching a successful search for a successor, McDonald said. The position comes with a number of responsibilities, including all fundraising activities, communications and publications, governmental affairs, merchandise marketing and licensing and the UO Alumni Association.

"I frankly gave Dave a year's notice, like I said I would," McDonald said. "These searches take a long time. You don't just call up a temp agency and say 'I need a vice president.'"

Frohnmayer said the University might consult a search firm and launch a national search for a successor immediately.

"It's a hot field and there are lots of universities who are looking for persons, especially in the area of fundraising," he said. He said he was aware of McDonald's plans to go back to teaching and the announcement came as no surprise.

"He and I had discussed the likelihood of him stepping down," he said.

McDonald's shoes might be difficult to fill.

"Duncan has worked very hard at the position he was, in essence, drafted for by the search committee and he really threw himself into it with a lot of energy," Frohnmayer said. "He has done an enormous amount of work, cultivating future fundraising for



McDonald

the University."

Looking back at his terms as vice president and ahead to the next year, McDonald said the position was rewarding, but leaves a number of challenges to be tackled by next June, including this year's fundraising campaign.

At the same time, McDonald plans to prepare to rejoin the School of Journalism and Communication news-editorial program.

"I'm certainly not going to dust off the old lectures," he said.

Tim Gleason, dean of the School of Journalism and Communication, said courses for the fall of 2001 will be scheduled soon and McDonald might find himself teaching Information Gathering, better known as "Info Hell," one of the school's required lower division classes.

"He actually was the creator of that, so I wouldn't be surprised to see him back there," Gleason said. "We're looking forward to having him back in the School and back in the classroom."

McDonald said he looks forward to having more time for research and book-writing once he returns to teaching.

He said his decision not to renew his contract has nothing to do with the debate surrounding the Worker Rights Consortium, an issue that split the campus community and catapulted the University into the national spotlight last spring.

"It's not connected," he said, adding that running away from a situation is not his style.

"I'm not sick of the WRC issue and the FLA issue," he said. "I'd like to think that I'm not a sprinter, but a marathoner."

It's a

win, win, win, win, win

situation.

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