

Auxiliary Services releases results of Bus and Transportation Survey

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Students who rode the bus around campus last month may have taken a survey asking them what they thought of the transportation system on campus. This initiative was headed up by Mark Reeves, director of Auxiliary Services. Reeves is also in charge of Parking and Transportation this semester. He plans to respond to student concerns addressed in the survey by making changes based on the student responses.

So far this year, Reeves has already begun to use direct, rather than solar power to light the bus stops, started a bi-monthly cleaning of all bus stops, and ordered replacement parts for leaky roofs and broken walls. Other changes include a daily inspection of the interior of each bus, asking drivers to refuel at the end of the day rather than in the middle, and a new centrally-located utility shed that will contain all the supplies necessary to keep the busses running.

Reeves has also begun updating bus maps and the website, as well as tracking ridership and fuel consumption to identify areas for new improvements. He will also be taking a trip to tour the Nabi bus manufacturing plant in March with other VPs to help make purchasing decisions on new vehicles.

The survey found a number of areas that need improvement. Surprisingly, students expressed a willingness to pay increased fees in order to enact these changes. Over 46% of students were willing to pay an additional \$.50 per day in order to cover things such as a new bus fleet and longer hours of service.

These findings will be shared with a consulting firm, Solstice Transportation Consultants, who will advise the administration how to best serve the needs of students. Some options that are being looked at are: adding new busses, changing/adding routes, changing bus stop locations, and changing seating configurations, but no parking deck is planned due to UWG being a rural campus.

1. Predictability

Good - 39%
Ok - 41%
Needs Improvement - 20%

2. Wait-time

Good - 26%
Ok - 45%
Needs Improvement - 29%

3. Hours of Service

Good - 34%
Ok - 43%
Needs Improvement - 23%

4. Bus stops' locations

Good - 90%
Need Improvement - 10%

5. Bus Stops adequately protect from inclement weather

Yes - 70%
No - 30%

6. Exterior markings to identify route

Yes - 73%
No - 23%