

Brian Shepter, 3L and president of the Student Bar Association, leads the crowd on Gordon Plaza with the chant: "No way, we won't pay!" Walking out on their classes, students from all three schools—law, liberal arts and business—gathered on the plaza and wore anti–parking-increase stickers to express their disapproval for administration-proposed parking rates.

■ See inside for protest coverage

Photo by Christopher Henry | *The UB Post*

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Parking Rate Debate Nears an End

By Nedra Cruz
Editor in Chief

Students seized the opportunity to ask questions and share concerns with administrators about the proposed increase in campus parking rates.

Students showed an outpouring of concern for the proposed parking model at an open forum held by administrative officials on April 10. More than 50 members of the University of Baltimore community attended the discussion in the Business Center.

President Robert L. Bogomolny, Harry Schuckel, senior vice president of Administration and Finance, Steve Cassard, assistant vice president for campus planning and real estate development, and Barbara Aughenbaugh, associate vice president of Auxiliary Enterprises, fielded questions and heard suggestions for proposal revisions for over two hours from a mainly student audience. The student forum followed an employee town hall about the same issue on April 9.

Before starting the question-and-answer session, Bogomolny commented about the protest that took place earlier in the day on Gordon Plaza. "I believe that it's good to see the students who…feel they do have the strength to come out and talk about it, demonstrate. That's been, I think, not a bad thing, but a good thing."

He also addressed an issue brought up prior to the forum: Students are concerned that parking fees are not included as qualified expenses on financial aid forms.

"We're trying, insofar as we can, to increase financial aid available to reflect that," said Bogomolny, who acknowledged that it will not help the students who are already at the limit allowed by the federal government.

Many UB students, specifically those in the Law School, find themselves in that situation, with no source to pay for additional fees.



Photo by Meredith Barr | *The UB Post*

(L to R) President Robert L. Bogomolny, Harry Schuckel, senior vice president of Administration and Finance, Barbara Aughenbaugh, associate vice president of Auxiliary Enterprises, and Steve Cassard, assistant vice president for campus planning and real estate development

"I don't mean to sound harsh, but there is no way to do these things for free," Bogomolny said. "The only way for us to develop these proposals is to try to figure out the most creative and least cost-expensive way to do it."

During the Q-and-A, Allyson Goldscher, 2L, said, "The parking rate increase that hasn't gone on at this school is not the students' fault. It's really unfortunate that the accountability is being placed on the students where it's the university's fault for not increasing the rates over the years."

The university has been absorbing the parking-rate–related deficit and students have benefited from the university's "dereliction over the past years," Bogomolny said.

Goldscher also asked why current students are paying for a parking facility that will not be finished for at least a year.

"We still have three-quarters of a million dollars in deficit that we anticipate for next year," regardless of the new garage project, Schuckel said. "We're not talking about deficit of a fixed amount of money. We're talking about an ongoing deficit—every single year is going to continue to create three quarters of a million dollars in red ink.

"What's the effect of that? It takes money away from other programs," Schuckel said. Parking and other departments in Auxiliary, such as campus food services and the bookstore, "should be minimally self-funding, and they certainly shouldn't detract from academic programs."

In response to a question by Marcus Newton, MBA finance student and Graduate Student Senate treasurer, Schuckel said that part of the revenue generated by the parking rates goes to Parking Management Inc. (PMI), and the rest of it goes toward the costs of running the garage as well as the parking deficit.

Andrew Saller, 2L and Student Bar Association treasurer, suggested a minute-by-minute model. "That is the most fair model possible; I will only pay for what I'm here."

"The point of the brackets was so that there *wasn't* a disincentive to stay longer," Aughenbaugh said. "Once you stayed eight hours, it was the same rate, so it was meant to *not* disincent [sic] students who participate in extracurricular activities."

Mary Murphy, 2L, expressed her disappointment about the delayed release of proposed parking rates.

"I understand your frustration about the delay," Bogomolny said. "There are business reasons that we've been engaged in that required the process to take longer than we anticipated."

Some suggestions the administration will consider include additional bicycle storage and possible discounts for motorcycle storage. Upon the advice of a law student who has worked in non-profit organizations for over 10 years, administration will look into adding a category for transportation to their current capital campaign.

Addressing the audience, Bogomolny said, "We will, where we can, make whatever adjustments that we can in response to your questions and issues in order to make this as tolerable as possible."

Revised parking proposals will be posted on UB's "Parking Updates" website (www.ubalt.edu/parkingupdate) by close of business on April 16. Senior administrators will meet with the University Council Executive Committee and the student Presidents' Council during the week of April 21 for final feedback and discussion. The contract with PMI is slated to be signed on April 29, and final parking rates will be posted on the website that day.

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Student Pro

'Give Us

By Nedra Cruz
Editor in Chief

The Student Government Association (SGA), comprised of the Undergraduate Student Senate (USS), the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) and the Student Bar Association (SBA), led a walkout and protest on April 10 to give the University of Baltimore community a chance to voice concerns about the proposed parking rates. Hundreds of students, faculty and staff gathered on Gordon Plaza for two hours of chanting, student speeches and petition signing—over 300 signatures were obtained.

Students have been speaking out since the administration released the parking proposal on March 28. In response, SGA presented a list of appeals to the administration for revisions to the proposed parking model before the final contract is signed with vendor Parking Management Inc. (PMI).

"When I saw the [proposed parking] rates for the first time, I was shocked and appalled," said Joe Slider, history student and USS president. "The protest is to show the administration that we are serious, that students do not like the plan they have and we need to amend the plan. Changes need to be made for students to be happy with it."

At the protest, SGA members handed out copies of the parking proposal as well as lists of SGA's suggested revisions.

"The protest is about making sure that the administration knows that students aren't going to blindly accept changes of this nature when tuition prices are going up and we're approaching an economic recession—we're already in one," said Brian Shepter, 3L and SBA president. "No one can afford this right now, and for it to be thrown on us without any notice is just outrageous."

The protest was the students' precursor event to the administration-organized student parking forum held later that day.

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Photo by Meredith Barr | *The UB Post*

Right: Nabiha Khan, pre-computer information systems student and USS first-year representative, holds a protest sign during the walk out on Gordon Plaza. Many members of the UB community feel the fate of student life on campus is in jeopardy with the proposed parking rates.

Left: Diana Blessing, forensic studies student, disagrees with the proposed system where the initial deposit on a student's card affects the parking rates. "Not only do we have to come up with this money, but in order to receive the best deal possible, we have to come up with it all at once," she said.



During the walk out and protest on Gordon Plaza, m included student speeches, protest chants and signs



Photo by Meredith Barr | *The UB Post*

Cari Watts, negotiations and conflict management student and president of GSS:

"When putting together the parking model, the only number the administration took into account was the time that [students] spent in class. The SGA took the time to get the numbers that the administration didn't deem necessary to gather."

- **Work-study employees:** 50,000 hours in one year
- **Athletic Club:** 38,565 ID swipes in nine months (at least 80 percent being students)
- **SEB events:** 1,140 people in attendance at eight events since the fall
- **Clubs and organizations participants:** 1,010 in one year
- **CSI** puts on 765 events in one year
- **Fourth-floor student organization space:** 502 students per month
- **Computer labs:** 1,305 students in one computer lab (AC 103) in one week
- **Academic Resource Center:** 6,446 visits in one year
- **Langsdale Library:** 60,465 passes through the gates in nine months (at least 95 percent being students)
- **The Career Center:** 553 visits in six months (at least 84 percent being current students)

Source: Student Government Association

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Photo by Meredith Barr | *The UB Post*

embers of the UB community sign the petition against the proposed parking fees. The two-hour event . ABC 2 News captured some of the excitement and aired a brief report during their noon broadcast.

Josh Polanco, marketing student and USS webmaster:

The Middle States Report came and they had some recommendations for UB. One of them was "focus on improving communication of senior-level decision-making and delineating roles of stakeholders." While, obviously, they haven't followed that communication; they haven't followed any of that. "Honor principles of shared governance"—they haven't worked with us at all. So they're not even letting us voice opinions. "Review use of the Student Center; make it more accessible to students." We have an awesome Student Center, but next semester, how many people are going to be using it if they're afraid of parking fees?

Chris Pirog, finance student and treasurer:

How would you have students come who normally wouldn't be here to attend your events and pay for parking? Administration says [the SGA] can provide money for them, to increase their budgets to pay for the parking. Well, I have news for you: We crunched the numbers and there's just no money for that. So, [students] would be forced to bear the burden of that and to come up with alternative funds, which isn't something we want to put on you.

Chris Matthai, business administration student:

On a typical week, I spend about 40 to 48 hours a week here. Under the current, *current* pay plan, I will be paying about $1,200 to $1,400 a year in parking alone. I've taken this to heart…the Merrick School of Business really practices what it preaches; they should also know the effect that $1,200 added to an additional $3,400 [in tuition] is going to affect the demand of the services for this university.

Scarlett Corso, 1L and first-year SBA representative:

This is clearly a day for revolution. For the first time, the entire campus is united in a front. Today is about every student expressing his or her view of this--this parking issue. And this shows that this is a common thread that has united us all. It doesn't matter what school you're in--Law School, undergrad, administration, faculty, day student, night student--this is unavoidably affecting everyone. I think the administration just expects us to *roll over* the same way we've always done and complacently accept these financial demands that they are making upon us. You know what? *This didn't happen.*

Read more speeches online

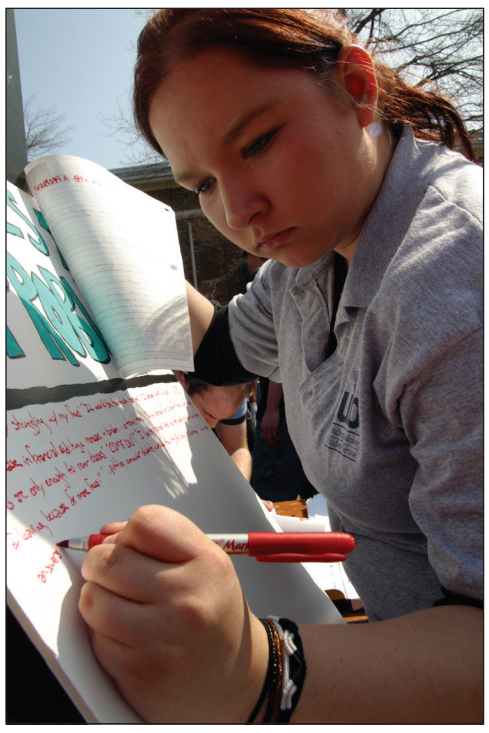


Photo by Christopher Henry | *The UB Post*

Jessi Lenz, pre-psychology student and USS member at large, writes her feedback to the administration on the proposed parking rates.



Photo by Meredith Barr | *The UB Post*

Andrew Saller, 2L and SBA treasurer:

As a business model, it is fatally flawed. It makes no sense. Services are diminishing, yet the cost is increasing. It makes no sense. If your landlord came to you and said, "I'm going to stick you in a smaller apartment and charge more rent," you would say, "Hell no."…If the university comes to you and says, "I'm going to start charging you more money just to *come* to class," you would say, "No." It just makes no sense.

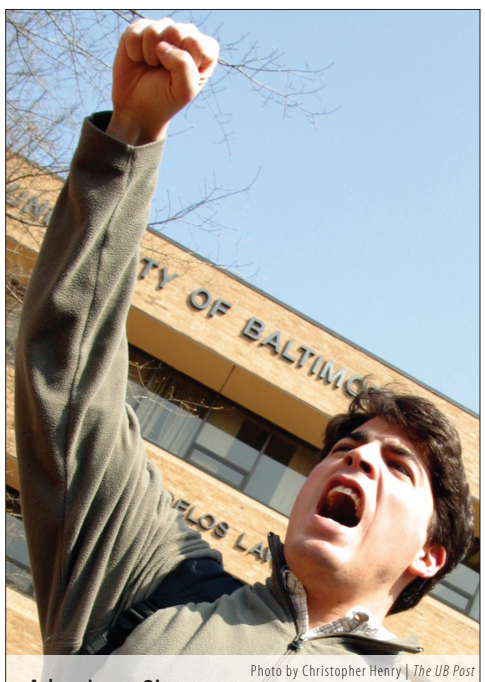


Photo by Christopher Henry | *The UB Post*

Adam Lynn, 2L:

"You know, [text]books are going up. I spent $800 on books this semester. I have to do that again next year—*twice* maybe. And then this parking is going to go up? Some of us borrow [money through] loans, some people borrow the maximum—we're not going to be able to cover it!"

Student Government Requested Revisions for the Parking Proposal

On April 2, the SGA requested that administration make several revisions to the proposed parking model before taking further action on the proposed rates, set to go into effect fall 2008. At the student parking forum on April 10, Steve Cassard, assistant vice president for campus planning and real estate development, and President Robert L. Bogomolny responded to SGA's requests.

SGA: Reduce the proposed parking rates by one third.
Cassard: "We are looking at options on how we can mitigate the cost to the student relevant to the rates or to other options we have such as reduction in fees. You may have seen we've proposed to reduce the student Auxiliary Fee by $5 per credit."

SGA: Make the first 30 minutes of parking free for students who are on campus for short businesses.
Cassard: "We're looking at means in which we can create some quick-drop parking right here in the heart of campus [in front of the Academic Center, the Student Center and on Maryland Avenue and/or on some UB-controlled real estate]….It may be a metered situation, which would just charge a nominal meter fee, but that could be managed and *enforced*."

SGA: Guarantee full refunds on remaining balances for unused parking credits when a student leaves the university (i.e. graduated, terminated study at UB).
Cassard: "That is feasible. There may be a nominal processing charge."

SGA: Stagger the increase in parking rates for current students.
Bogomolny: "There are two separate issues. One is the cost of running the facility and developing it, and the other is long-term—reducing the deficit of the university," which already will be stepped and staged. Administration is reviewing whether or not they can make it happen over a longer period of time.

SGA: Cap the maximum annual payments for students.
Cassard: "We're looking at it. There's some concerns about parking management and abuse once you reach the cap. It may still, in some respects, affect rates, but we're looking at that."

SGA: Lower parking rates for weekends.
Cassard: "That's a challenge…lower rates on the weekends could potentially mean higher rates during the week."

SGA: Increase pay for student workers and graduate assistants to offset the parking increase.
Cassard: "We understand that some grad assistants have a salary cap, an income cap, an hourly rate cap, they can't make beyond that. So we are looking at the individual, unique cases that apply to students who also work here and try to figure how we can develop some proposals that would mitigate the cost of parking."

SGA: Involve the student governments and shared governance bodies in a legitimate dialogue and collaborative process at least one academic year prior to signing future contracts.
Not addressed by Cassard

Compiled by Nedra Cruz, editor in chief

MASTHEAD

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Student Government ELECTIONS

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Calling all highly motivated students who want to make a difference on campus!

The **Undergraduate Student Senate (USS)**, **Graduate Student Senate (GSS)**, **Student Bar Association (SBA)**, and the **Student Events Board (SEB)** are seeking candidates for the upcoming elections.

Election packages are available at **Rosenberg Center for Student Involvement (CSI)**, located in Room 303 of the Student Center. Candidate applications are due on April 7th at 7p.m.

Election Timeline

Now to April 7th	Election packages available at Rosenberg CSI
April 7th (7p.m.)	All candidate applications packets and platform statements due to Rosenberg CSI
April 1st to 13th	Campaign Weeks
April 14th to 20th	Elections via CSILink (www.ubalt.edu/csilink)

For more information, please visit www.ubalt.edu/elections, or contact Roseberg CSI (csi@ubalt.edu, 410-837-5417)

Top 10 Reasons to Run for Student Government Office:

10. It will look great on your resume.
9. You will have a direct connection to the Baltimore Business community.
8. You will learn and practice organizational management skills.
7. You will acquire leadership skills.
6. You will have great networking opportunities.
5. You will have an impact on the UB student experience.
4. You will work directly with campus administrators and faculty.
3. You will represent the interests of UB students.
2. You will be an instrument of change.
1. You will receive professional training at retreats and conferences, and you will have fun!

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