



September 17, 2008

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
Montclair State University
One Normal Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043

RE: Information on parking spaces and fee structure

Dear Dr. Cole:

Thank you for the University's reply on July 9, 2008 via email from Vice President for Human Resources, Judith Hain, to our June 5, 2008 letter regarding information on parking spaces and fee structures. However, in light of the large fee increases to park in the Red Hawk Deck, and based on the University's answers to the AFT Local 1904 (Union)'s questions in our June 5, 2008 letter, concern remains regarding the issue of parking on campus for our membership.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VIII, Section D of the State-Union Agreement, the Union hereby requests the following information regarding both the "[a]dequate free parking" referred to in Section 16.7 of the Local Selected Procedures Agreement (LSPA), with adequacy being determined "jointly by the Administration and the Union".

1. In response to the Union's June 5, 2008 question, "Of the total number of parking spaces on campus, how many are reserved for faculty, staff and librarians?" the University replied that "[t]here are 572 (orange) parking spaces for full-time faculty, staff and librarians." However, upon reviewing the Parking Lot Space Inventory posted on the Parking Services website, the Union cannot replicate this figure.

For the main campus we calculate 505 regular and handicapped spaces for faculty and staff. If we include 855 Valley Road, there are a total of 545 regular and handicapped spaces for faculty and staff. Our figures do not include spaces reserved for University service vehicles, metered spaces in these lots, and executive parking spaces (i.e., reserved surface spots for the President, Deans, Vice Presidents, etc.). Our figure does not take into account that Lot 3 is closed for construction, which represents a temporary loss of 20 regular and handicapped spaces for faculty and staff.

Therefore, we request a lot by lot accounting of regular and handicapped spaces for faculty and staff that does not include spaces for University service vehicles, metered spaces, or executive parking spaces, so that we can see how the figure of 572 was arrived at.

We would also like to know how the 20 spaces temporarily lost due to the closer of Lot 3 have been replaced.

In addition, the Union has received reports from two members that 12 faculty and staff parking spaces in Lot 17 have been converted to meter use. If this is true, why was this change made and where are the replacement spaces located?

2. The University's response to the Union's June 5, 2008 question "How was/is the fee structure for the Red Hawk Deck determined?", mentions that the University benchmarks its parking fees against other state colleges and universities, as well as "prevailing parking rates," but does not provide any specific figures for comparison. If an analysis was done comparing the University's fees to other state colleges and universities, as well as "prevailing parking rates", we would like to receive a copy of it.
3. The University's response to the Union's June 5, 2008 question regarding paying to park on a semester basis in the Red Hawk Deck states that "[a]s long as permits are available, employees can purchase parking on a semester basis." However, this answer seems to indicate that it is not possible to, on an ongoing basis, reserve a parking permit for the Red Hawk Deck on a semester by semester basis, and that the employee has to rejoin the waiting list each time it stops the payroll deduction. Is this understanding correct?
4. Lots 19 and 32 are reserved for faculty and staff from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., as the signs posted indicate. However, the Union has received reports from its members regarding students parking in Lots 19 and 32 during the hours reserved for employees, thus further reducing the availability of parking spaces. The Union would like to know how the University is enforcing the parking rules so that these and the other spots reserved for faculty and staff remain available for faculty and staff?

This is an issue that is important to our members and we look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

Jennifer S. Higgins
Associate Vice President, Personnel
MSUFT Local 1904

cc: Dierdre Glenn Paul, President, MSUFT Local 1904
Barbara Hoerner, Grievance Chairperson, MSUFT Local 1904
Judith Hain, Vice President, Personnel, MSU