



Photo by Gabriel Ainslie - Assistant Photography Editor

Security guard Dennis Thompson writes a ticket Feb. 24. UNCA faculty recently expressed concern with policy changes.

Faculty questions parking policies

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Factions of UNC Asheville faculty are heated regarding changes to parking policies, according to postings in the university's online faculty forum.

The changes, effective last August, require all faculty, staff and students to display a parking decal at all times on campus. Previously, permits were not needed to park in UNCA lots after 5 p.m. and on weekends. Parking permits cost undergraduates \$100 for the academic year.

"Usually parking policies are set to manage a scarce resource," said **Scott Walters, associate professor in the drama department.** "It doesn't seem necessary to manage when it's not scarce. Why would you ticket the only car in a lot?"

The issue was brought to

the faculty forum after a non-permit holding faculty member received a ticket while parked in a campus lot on a Saturday.

"I don't think he intended to start some bruhaha," said **Professor Duane Davis of the philosophy department.** "He wanted to point out a policy problem, I assume."

Davis said faculty and staff received an August email noting changes to policy, which included links to additional information and permit registration.

UNCA provides lots for residents and commuter students, faculty, staff and visitors. UNCA has 22 on-campus lots, with additional lots located on Vivian Street and Edgewood Road.

"I assume (faculty) jumped right to the links to get their new stickers," Davis said. "Busy people do not read all of their emails."

Walters agreed with Davis,

citing a breakdown in communication between faculty, administration and enforcement.

"An email was sent," Walters said. "However, the ramifications were not immediately clear."

These changes, brought to staff attention this month by means of an email-based forum, incited discussion on policies and decision making on UNCA's campus.

"Some people got disproportionately angry," Davis said.

The matter of after-hours parking was eclipsed by concerns that staff and faculty non-permit holders became targets for campus ticketing following the changes.

"There was once a time when it was strongly encouraged that we not drive to campus," Walters said. "It was one of those campus-wide efforts to be green. Now we are almost required to purchase permits, and the ticketing could be con-

strued as some kind of punishment."

Walters said he believes that punishment was not the motive for the policy alteration, but found recent faculty ticketings to be the unintended consequences of more stringent policy enforcement.

Reactions to the online forum further heated at the suggestion that campus enforcement was cross-checking license tags with UNCA employees, a practice that received mixed feelings from faculty partaking in the forum.

"The forum is used by some to say things that upset them, to some degrees of success," Davis said. "I was surprised that it went viral. There is the symbolic problem and then there is the literal value."

Davis said, as far as he was concerned, the possibility of the campus police having ac-

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Environmental groups partner to create green regulations

Ted Kendrick

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The National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center, UNC Asheville's applied environmental research center, recently established working relationships between two technology industry leaders, Riverside and Locus Technologies.

"These alliances will bring new opportunities for our campus and students," said **Jim Fox, director of NEMAC.**

NEMAC was created in 2003 to teach the importance of global issues such as energy and water consumption, climate and weather change and other natural hazards. Working with UNCA undergraduate students, scientific professionals and many partnerships, NEMAC helps solve the greater problems that seem unsolvable alone.

"We employ over 20 students a year at NEMAC. They work as active team members on real projects and many of our students have gone on to work for groups that they have interned for through NEMAC," Fox said. "We see the same thing happening with our two new partnerships. The local office for Locus was opened by two ex-NEMAC employees, Dr. Todd Pierce and Jeff Hicks. Jeff was a student intern for NEMAC, then became an employee of NEMAC when he graduated from UNC Asheville. Locus is a Silicon Valley company, and the two of them got very high paying jobs with Locus and opened up the regional office for Locus here in Asheville. Since that time, they have employed another UNC Asheville alumni.

Fox said the partnership presents a chance for commercial and government resources

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