

On-campus parking frustrates students and faculty

Completion of N.C. Center for Health and Wellness will offer more spaces

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Approximately 20 nonresidential student parking spaces and 33 faculty parking spaces in lot four have been eliminated due to construction on Rhodes-Robinson, according to campus **Chief of Police, Eric Boyce.**

“When the new North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness building was starting to be built, we lost a lot of parking. That’s just been this year and last year, and I think that’s really made parking feel a lot more crazy here. I know that if I try to come on campus any time after 9 a.m., it’s very difficult to find a faculty or staff spot,” **associate professor of health and wellness Amy Lanou said.**

Although the new parking deck will add many parking spaces, who will be allowed to park there has not been decided, Boyce said.

“The parking for the health and wellness center hasn’t been designated yet. That will require further meetings and evaluations as to what the actual needs for that center are and then a determination will be made as to how that parking is designated,” Boyce said.

Lanou said she thinks the parking situation will be relieved hugely when the new parking deck is completed.

“We’ll basically go back to something similar, if not more parking than we had before that project,” she said.

According to **elementary education student Codi Edenfield,** she’s seen cars parked in places that aren’t parking spaces because they are the only places available.

“I know there are rules, but it seems like people would be more understanding when there’s no where else to park and students are trying to get to class,” she said.

According to Boyce, student complaints about tickets they received when there was no free parking hasn’t been an issue.

Edenfield said she hasn’t received a ticket this semester, but is very careful



Katie Saylors/assistant photography editor

Dennis Thompson of Campus Police gives out tickets to students parked illegally. Students said they park illegally due to lack of open spaces when they arrive to campus even if they arrive early.

about where she parks.

“I’m sure more students have gotten tickets this semester, though. It seems like campus police officers are patrolling the parking areas a lot more this semester,” she said.

Edenfield said she has to park far

away from the buildings her classes are in.

“Sometimes I’m lucky and get something relatively close. But most of the time, I have to park wherever I can find an open parking spot,” she said.

Lanou said she’s had some students

come to class late complaining they couldn’t find a parking space.

“It seems to me at the beginning of the semesters it happens for a while, then people work it out,” she said.

Lanou said she had the hardest time finding a parking space this semester when there weren’t even any spaces in free parking lots.

Lanou, who worked at Isca College and Cornell University before she came to UNC Asheville, said parking here is much better than Cornell University and other larger universities.

“Any really big school, pretty much, it’s very hard to have parking on campus at all, and if you do it’s very expensive, like in the hundreds of dollars range. So in my perspective, the cost of parking here is very reasonable,” she said.

According to Lanou, the fact that students can park within walking distance for free is remarkable compared to other schools.

“I do realize people get frustrated with parking here, but I think in general, we don’t have it as bad as Chapel Hill, for example. There’s just no where to park on campus at Chapel Hill,” she said.

Lanou said she carools with another professor to decrease their hassle of trying to find a spot.

“I think we as a community need to do more of that—figuring out ways to deal with the amount of space we have to (park) cars by taking public transportation, using the free parking and car pooling,” she said.

According to Boyce, freshmen are allowed to park on campus only if they receive a waiver for certain criteria that the vice chancellor of student affairs reviews.

Those criteria include physical or medical conditions, classes that require transportation, being on an athletic team and employment.

The parking lot off Vivian Street was recently modified, and any students, not just freshmen can park there. This lot added 116 spaces to the total of around 2,070 spaces on campus.