

Analysis of Results of the Survey of Tenure-Track Faculty re. the Parking Privatization Initiative at OSU

April 4, 2012

On behalf of Faculty Council members Paul Beck, Pierluigi Bonello, Ana Del Sarto, Ben Givens, Ulrich Heinz, Thomas Lemberger, Michael Lisa, Linda Lobao, Rajiv Ramnath, Trish Van Zandt, Bruce Weide, and alternates Roger Crawfis, James Mulick, Boris Mityagin, James Sanders, and Sabra Webber

The full text of the survey is reported below in Appendix 1. The survey consisted of two questions:

1. Do you SUPPORT privatization of OSU parking operations?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know enough about it

2. What is your status?
 - a. Faculty
 - b. Staff
 - c. Student

The second question was included to allow us to separate faculty from other respondents, in case the survey were completed by non-faculty personnel.

The survey was conducted using Zoomerang in two overlapping phases between March 27 and April 2. The first phase was a pilot survey of 200 tenure-track faculty (March 27-31) to test functionality; the second phase was the main survey of 2,604 tenure-track faculty (March 28-April 2), not including the first 200. Therefore, a total of 2,804 tenure-track faculty were invited to participate via an email list that was constructed by querying the OSU LDAP server (which contains public information about OSU e-mail addresses, position titles, and some other information for OSU employees and students). For simplicity, the results of the survey will be presented here as the combination of the two phases.

Although the invitation (see Appendix 1) was sent to those the LDAP server listed with tenure-track faculty titles, a total of 88 staff and 24 students also responded. Here we focus on faculty responses. However, purely for reporting purposes, staff and student responses are also summarized separately in Appendix 2.

The responses of tenure-track faculty to question 1 were as follows:

Do you SUPPORT privatization of OSU parking operations?

Answer	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	86	6.9%
No	1047	83.6%
I don't know enough about it	119	9.5%
Total	1252	100%

The tenure-track faculty response rate was 44.65% (1252/2804).

It is of note that 92.4% of the faculty who felt they knew enough to take a position did not support the parking privatization plan, and only 7.6% were in favor.

Appendix 1: Survey introductory text as it appeared in Zoomerang

Welcome to our survey on the OSU parking privatization plan!

As members of University Faculty Council interested in providing oversight of University policy, we would like to gauge the level of support in our community for the proposal by OSU administration to lease parking operations to a private entity for the next half a century.

There are a variety of materials bearing on this issue. A summary of the University position can be found at <http://oncampus.osu.edu/2012/02/getting-down-to-basics/>, while the latest resolution passed by Faculty Council on this issue on March 8, 2012 represents a summary of an alternative position (<http://www.cse.ohio-state.edu/~weide/parking/FC-Resolution-2012-03-08.pdf>).

More detailed information is also available:

- University administration: <http://www.busfin.ohio-state.edu/parkinginfo.aspx> and <http://senate.osu.edu/?p=2833>.
- Concerned Faculty: <http://cse.osu.edu/~weide/parking/>. This site contains information we have prepared and made available to Faculty Council, including a statement of financial/philosophical/ethical issues and a thorough financial analysis. The site also includes the text of a prior resolution passed by Faculty Council on February 9, 2012 as well as two short videos, discussing the basic cash flow of the proposed operation and some implications of privatizing public infrastructure (a PBS production).

Please consider participating in this extremely quick (one question), anonymous survey regarding the privatization proposal. Please respond by 11:30 pm on Monday, April 2.

Your participation in this survey would be greatly appreciated.

Your Senators:

Beck, Paul (Social & Behavioral Sciences)
Bonello, Pierluigi (Enrico) (FAES)
Del Sarto, Ana (Humanities)
Givens, Ben (Social & Behavioral Sciences)
Heinz, Ulrich (Mathematical & Physical Sciences)
Lemberger, Thomas (Mathematical & Physical Sciences)
Lisa, Michael (Mathematical & Physical Sciences)
Lobao, Linda (FAES)
Ramnath, Rajiv (Engineering)
Van Zandt, Trish (Social & Behavioral Sciences)
Weide, Bruce (Engineering)

Your Alternates:

Crawfis, Roger (Engineering)
Mulick, James (Medicine)
Mityagin, Boris (Mathematical & Physical Sciences)
Sanders, James (The Arts)
Webber, Sabra (Humanities)

Appendix 2: Responses by Staff and Students

Do you SUPPORT privatization of OSU parking operations?

Answer	Staff	Students
Yes	3 (3.4%)	1 (4.2%)
No	77 (87.5%)	17 (70.8%)
I don't know enough about it	8 (9.1%)	6 (25%)
Total	88 (100%)	24 (100%)

¹Please note that these were not invited responses and therefore no response rate is available.

²It is not known if students were graduate, undergraduate, or both, or what rank they were.