

Monday's Message – March 18, 2013

Hello, everyone.

Last week, we shared the news that local agencies have decided to restrict parking on Temple Avenue, between University Drive and the City of Walnut boundary, beginning on April 1.

At Pizza with the Presidents last year, students raised concerns about the safety of the area. We took those concerns to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and City of Pomona, who have jurisdiction over the area. We suggested installing streetlights and increasing patrols of the area.

In its research, Public Works found 22 rear-end collisions over five years due to idling motorists and determined the best course of action would be to limit parking instead. The result isn't what we were initially asking for, but we understand installing street lights won't make a difference in rear-end collisions that happen in broad daylight.

I want you to know we hear your feedback. We have reviewed your messages, referrals and resolutions. And many groups on campus are meeting to talk about the parking and traffic management concerns you have brought forward. But, this is an activity in which we are always engaged. The safety of the University Community has always been one of my highest priorities.

Traffic management is highly complex. Many ideas may appear to be obvious solutions; however, our options are limited by numerous state and federal rules and regulations. We are also sensitive to balancing the needs of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians from our own university and the community.

We are working hard to find solutions that will work for our unique campus. Over the years, we have installed traffic lights, raised crosswalks, shifted traffic patterns, and added sidewalks. Progress never happens as quickly as we would like, but these efforts will continue to move forward.

We have been involved in conversations about converting to a common academic calendar for some time. We are one of six CSU campuses using the quarter system. After the Board of Trustees asked that we re-examine this, we presented all of the information gathered on our respective campuses along with a narrative edited by presidents Armstrong and Rosser. The Chancellor and his staff reviewed the information, conducted teleconferences with the six presidents and determined that we would all convert to semesters.

The conversion is scheduled in three phases, Cal State LA and CSU Bakersfield will begin the process, CSU San Bernardino and East Bay will be in the second wave, with Cal Poly Pomona and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the last pairing. The actual switch may not occur well into the end of the decade; however, planning for the change will begin now to ensure a smooth transition.

Ultimately, I expect this decision will be beneficial to the university and the people we serve.

One of my favorite events is the Southern California Tasting & Auction. It's our annual fundraising event for those 21 and older, who can wine and dine as they make a difference at our campus. Early bird pricing is still available, and those who purchase by March 31st will be eligible for a second drawing for a free guest pass. Learn more online [www.polytaste.com].

I have been describing the event as an adventure of tastes, sights and sounds. But it's something you have to experience to really understand. Today I will leave you with a short video that highlights what it's like to attend this benefit for student scholarships and support programs. I hope to see you at the Tasting & Auction on May 5.

[VIDEO: http://youtu.be/R_IUgG0ljD8]

Have a great spring break.