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**KSU's Papp announces employee parking fee hike**  
**Jon Gillooly - Staff Writer**

KENNESAW - Kennesaw State University President Dr. Dan Papp addressed concerns about his plan to hike employee parking fees from \$20 to \$50 beginning Sept. 1 in a talk to about 75 KSU employees Tuesday.

Papp apologized for how he has communicated his plan to increase the fees, which will be deducted from employee paychecks.

"Obviously, I did not do the job nearly as well as I needed to do the job," Papp told the faculty and staff.

With 20,000 students and 2,000 staff, but only 8,139 parking spaces, the university needs more parking, he said.

But since the state doesn't provide funding for parking, it has to come from student and employees fees.

An increase in student parking from \$70 to \$110 a semester, already approved by the Board of Regents, goes into effect this fall, he said.

Compounding the problem is rising enrollment, a 913-bed addition for students next fall, and a new health and human services building expected to open fall 2009.

Construction on a 2,600-space parking deck to be located north of the Burruss Building is set to begin this fall, but until that year-long construction project is complete, some 800 parking spaces on campus will be lost, he said.

To solve this complication, Papp is using two off campus parking lots to shuttle employees to campus. One parking lot is property owned by KSU south of Chastain Road, while the other is a parking deck owned by a bank east of campus, called the MBNA Deck.

Papp is trying to convince 800 KSU employees to volunteer for these spots.

Papp has divided his parking plan into three phases. The first phase, which hikes the staff parking fee to \$50, is non negotiable, he said.

The second phase, which kicks in January 2008, calls for a new employee parking fee, possibly calculated as a percentage of the employee's salary, he said.

The third phase, which seeks to plan for future growth, kicks in with the opening of the new parking deck.

Papp said only the first phase is non-negotiable.

"Everything else is on the table for discussion," he said.

Helping Papp to come to a decision is a parking panel, of which Faye Silverman, director of Auxiliary Services at KSU, is a member.

Ms. Silverman told the faculty Tuesday that her panel was also considering a parking fee for visitors, which could be more than \$10 a day.

"This is a work in progress," Papp said. "We absolutely want and need your input."

Shebbie Johnson, who is earning a degree in communications at Kennesaw State, and who also works in the visual arts department at KSU, said Tuesday's meeting was informative.

"I got a lot of my questions answered. I think, overall, we can come together as a campus community and make a decision for the better, for the good," Ms. Johnson said.

Georgia's colleges and universities handle the issue of parking differently.

Chattahoochee Technical College does not charge any parking fees for students or employees, said college spokesman John Furman.

Southern Polytechnic State University does not charge employees for parking, while students pay only \$25 per semester, said Ann Watson, university spokeswoman.

Over at the University of Georgia, the cost ranges from \$10 to \$30 per month depending on the lot, said university spokeswoman Wendy Jones.

Ms. Johnson said she supports Papp's plan to improve parking at Kennesaw State by raising the fee to \$50.

"Because of the growth, I think it's definitely something that's needed. It's something that will help a lot with the impact that we are facing with more faculty, more staff, more students, so I think it's something we do have to definitely pursue," she said.

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