

## Trustees Raise Ohio University Parking Fines

Athens, Ohio—In its April 2008 meeting, the Ohio University Board of Trustees voted to raise parking fines at Ohio University beginning July 1. The most common fines are for parking outside a permit area or in a prohibited space. These will increase from \$20 to \$25. The greatest fine increases are for parking in a handicapped space without a permit or misusing a handicapped permit. These fines will increase from \$100 to \$250.



The increases in fines will raise an estimated \$235,000 in additional revenue. This money will help pay for raises for the Parking Services' five employees—three enforcement officers and two staff members. It will also go toward maintaining the parking lots—fixing potholes, repainting lines, and resurfacing lots.

The campus has about 5,500 parking spaces. About 2,000 permits are given to faculty for free. The remaining spaces are sold to students living on campus and off campus. Annual parking permits for students on campus cost \$165 for outdoor spaces and \$330 for garage spaces. Off-campus students pay \$105 per year. Those without permits must use metered parking.

Many students object to the fine increases. Students with permits argue that there are not enough spaces and do not think it is fair to get a ticket after paying for a permit. Students who park at meters complain that the meters often expire before their classes end.

A budget official said that Parking Services only had two options for increasing revenue. It could either raise parking fines or the student parking-permit fee. Parking Services proposed raising the fines, and the Trustees agreed.

Parking Services has an annual budget of about \$820,000. Last year, it collected \$510,000 in fines and \$310,000 from student parking permits. These were its sole sources of revenue.

Ohio University is oldest public college in the state. Established in 1804, it was the first institution of higher learning in the Northwest Territory. Its nine-member Board of Trustees is appointed by the governor and confirmed by Ohio's Senate. Each member serves a nine-year term.

Top 5 Parking Offenses, 1980–2007		
1.	Permit Not Displayed	111,602
2.	Outside Permit Area	27,680
3.	Expired Meter	29,154
4.	Overtime Parking at Meter	6,869
5.	Invalid/expired Permit	2,444

(Source: *The Post*, Athens, Ohio)