



University Staff Senate
Of Loyola University New Orleans

Sponsored by Senators: Donna Bourgeois, Kathy Doskey, Albert Dupont as approved by a unanimous vote of the University Staff Senate on March 12, 2024; and as brought forth by Edouard Crago staff member and part-time faculty.

A RESOLUTION

-TO-

ENHANCE THE HANDICAPPED PARKING ON CAMPUS TO BETTER SERVE THE NEEDS OF OUR DISABLED STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF, AND ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO ENSURE CONTINUED PRIORITY AND RESOLUTION FOR ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES ON CAMPUS THAT MAY REQUIRE POLICY DEVELOPMENT, REVIEW AND/OR IMPLEMENTATION

WHEREAS, an in-person assessment of campus accessibility was conducted December 8 and 11, 2022, by Jesse Bascle of NolaRolla as retained by the Office of Disability Services; and

WHEREAS, the resulting Disability Consultation Report of Loyola University's campus dated April 12, 2023, concluded that, with minor remedy, on-campus access meets the minimum standard requirements as set forth by the ADA standards as found on the ADA.gov website; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the above, the University Staff Senate has been made aware that there are ongoing concerns regarding accessibility and accessible parking not meeting the needs of all students, faculty and staff, particularly in relation to parking facilities and accessibility; and

WHEREAS, the University Staff Senate has been advised that although handicapped accessible parking is available on campus, those within the community most affected by accessible parking are having difficulty with the location of handicapped spaces (positioned on ramps, next to columns, and too far from accessible pathways, etc.), and insufficient 'access aisles' (defined as the designated area for people who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices to get in and out of their car or van); and

WHEREAS, members of the community most affected by disability issues have been unable to find an established and clear pathway for remedy to report and resolve grievances; and

WHEREAS, Loyola University as a Jesuit Institution and we the members of the University Staff Senate strive to meet the needs of all members of our campus community; and

WHEREAS, accessibility is an issue that affects all members of the University community whether or not accommodations are required; and

WHEREAS, there are still pressing concerns that must be addressed to not only meet compliance standards but exceed them for Loyola to remain a standard of equity and inclusion both locally and nationally;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RECOMMENDED by the University Staff Senate

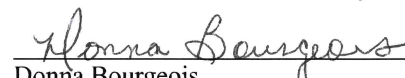


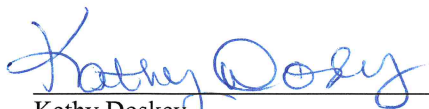
THAT,

1. The university conducts a thorough accessibility assessment of current facilities, with a specific focus on parking facilities and increasing the number of handicapped parking spaces, to identify areas of improvement to include enforcement of handicapped parking regulations.
2. The university pays particular attention to access aisles and properly measuring and sizing spaces to accommodate wheelchair lifts and person's with limited mobility to be able to enter and exit their vehicles. Location of these spaces should also be considered so that they are not next to columns and on ramps which currently limit access to these spaces, particularly for those who are in wheelchairs and those who have limited mobility.
3. The university considers clear and prominent signage, as well as well-defined markings, for all handicapped parking spaces to facilitate easy identification and adherence to parking regulations as well as re-stripping to allow for greater access aisles for those in wheelchairs and with other mobility issues.
4. The university encourages the adoption of technology solutions, such as mobile applications or smart parking systems, to assist individuals with disabilities in locating available handicapped parking spaces and to provide real-time information on parking availability.
5. The university advocates for ongoing educational programs and awareness campaigns to inform the university community about the importance of respecting handicapped parking spaces and understanding the specific needs of individuals with disabilities.
6. The university review existing parking enforcement policies with the goal of ensuring fairness and flexibility for individuals with disabilities, including considerations for temporary disabilities and medical appointments.
7. The university implements training programs for parking enforcement personnel to enhance their understanding of disability-related parking needs and promote respectful and accommodating interactions with individuals with disabilities.
8. The university establishes a committee with collaboration between the staff and faculty senates, student government, university administration, and disability services to ensure a holistic and coordinated approach to addressing issues on campus and providing a pathway for resolution of grievances not rising to the level of ombudsman.

BE IT RESOLVED that upon passage copies are to be sent to Dr. Xavier A. Cole, President of Loyola University New Orleans; Sharonda Williams, Government and Legal Affairs; Todd Warren, Director and Chief LUPD; Elizabeth Rainey, Assistant Provost (Office of Accessible Education); and John Cain, Risk Management.


Mary M. Musso
Chair, University Staff Senate


Donna Bourgeois
Vice Chair, University Staff Senate


Kathy Doskey
Senator, Financial Affairs


Albert Dupont
Senator, College of Music & Media