Benjamin J. McCall  
Chair, Illinois Climate Action Plan Working Group

Dear Benjamin,

This letter is in response to your May 4, 2015 formal notice of the Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) Working Group (iWG) recommendation (#Trans002) which recommends that the Parking Department “organize a survey to gauge stakeholder interest in alternative parking plans”. The Parking Department is requesting a postponement of implementing this recommendation until the substantial completion of our 10 year Master Planning process.

Walker Parking Consultants began the Parking Master Plan in late February 2015. This represents a comprehensive study of our operation, including parking policies, utilization of parking inventory, motorcycle parking, visitor way finding, parking technology, parking facilities condition assessment, organizational and operational assessment, parking alternatives for garages at C7 and C10, traffic study, and financial analysis and modelling. Our consultant has already met with eight stakeholder groups, each comprised of eight to twelve faculty, staff, student, and community representatives that frequently interact with the Parking Department. In addition to the stakeholder meetings, we formed a Parking Master Plan Steering Committee, comprised of a diverse group of campus administrators with an interest in parking, transit, and sustainability. The Steering Committee will guide the Parking Department through this process to both guarantee transparency and to represent the unique needs for parking on campus.

In reference to iWG’s recommendation, the Parking Department does currently offer some flexibility in parking permits, specifically the option to purchase a permit for only part of the year. However, based on feedback from stakeholders, Walker is currently reviewing options for more alternative parking options that would offer more flexibility and economic choice. We have shared the most recent draft of the iCAP with Walker, and they will be addressing the specific parking initiatives it suggests and the associated costs as they develop the plan.

As part of the Master Plan recommendation, Walker is also required to present a business model that will support the self-sufficient budgetary expectations of an auxiliary operation. We appreciate the acknowledgement by the iWG that any more sustainable parking alternatives must be fiscally responsible. We are confident that Walker is committed to providing a plan that addresses the sustainability goals of the campus and our department.

Both Walker Parking Consultants and our University of Illinois Parking Advisory Committee have endorsed the postponement of implementing this recommendation of the iWG until after the Master Plan is substantially complete, which we anticipate to be in February of 2016. Upon
completion, or sooner should we have all the information we need to make an informed decision about the ICAP recommendation. Parking will take action either in the form of policy changes, or gathering additional data to assess whether or not we can develop a plan which responds to the recommendation.

Sincerely,

Michelle L. Wahl, CAPP
Director of Parking