October 3, 2012: What Do You Want Wednesday Report

The purpose of What Do You Want Wednesday is to allow Mason students and Mason’s Student Government to interact in a one-on-one basis to facilitate conversations regarding desired changes or questions about campus issues. This month, in addition to providing updates from requests or concerns from last month, we were able to identify an additional 157 concerns from the student body.

University Services (119)

The University Services committee focuses on issues that arise with the services that the campus provides to students outside of the classroom. Those services include those provided by the Office of Housing, Dining, Parking, IT, Mason Police, Print Services, and the Office of Health and Student Safety.

HOUSING (4)

- In future residence halls, have common rooms or lounges on all floors
- Better RA benefits (maybe free parking) x 2
- Ice Machines in the dorms

PARKING (29)

- More parking spaces available/parking decks x 10
- Cheaper parking x 5
- More emergency buttons in parking lots x 3
- Have parking spaces located closer to the center of campus
- Have a lot dedicated to free visitor parking on this campus
- Station a crossing guard/police cadet by the JC load ramp and Lot A crosswalk
- Parking Services employees should have a better attitude, they are very rude
- Find a way to allow general student parking to be permitted in faculty spaces in Rappahannock around peak times of classes and parking lot usage
- Better parking, focus on addressing Tuesday/Thursday needs, as it is the busiest
• Less restricted lots (too many spaces going to waste)
• Have more shuttle stops around the campus x 2
• Change hours of Rappahannock parking deck to allow for later parking
• Do more to spread the word about our ZipCar program

**DINING (41)**

• More dining venues/dining options x 4
• More late night dining options (including longer hours at South Side) x 3
• Update the dining maps online and the ones located around campus x 2
• Healthier food options on campus x 2
• More gluten free dining options x 2
• Offer more foods from local vendors and farms
• Greater variety of food (Indian, halal, vegan) x 5
• Less fast food options, more sit down venues to eat/dining halls
• Have more dining venues list the nutritional information of food
• More pineapple cups at Simply to Go
• One Stop (in Blue Ridge) should be 24/7
• More seating space in Southside
• More dining halls/Bigger dining halls x 5
• More fruit at Southside
• Have signs at all dining venues about what they are offering as a meal deal
• Slushies in Ike’s need bigger straws
• More working microwaves in the JC
• More microwaves in the JC or other spaces (SUB I, The Hub) for commuters

• Chipotle on campus

• More cobb salads

• Fix the menus at the Rat and Pilot House, bring back the popular items

• Have more liquor/a bigger bar at the Rat

• Free refills on drinks

• Better oriental food in the JC

• Extend Chick-fil-a breakfast hours until 11, to coincide with the rest of the campus

**IT (6)**

• Have open servers for guests to be able to access the wireless network at Mason

• Improve user friendliness of Blackboard website

• Better Wi-Fi connectivity in the dorms x 3

• Purchase more servers to allow for fast internet use/access

**FACILITIES (18)**

• More/bigger dining halls (in conjunction with Dining suggestions) x 3

• Better building signage/clearer and more up to date campus maps x 3

• More bike racks x 2

• More bikeshare stations

• More clocks/clocktowers

• Improve the grounds keeping around the campus

• Less construction

• Have better sectioned off areas for smokers/clearer signs about smoking areas/Keep them away from the JC doors and the underwalk between Robinson A and B
• Bigger library space x 2
• More trees, green space on campus
• Less construction
• Improve sidewalk infrastructure (too much flooding during rains)

AUXILIARY SERVICES (16)
• More study space that is quiet/longer hours of available study space x 4
• More lockers in the JC
• Lower costs of materials from Events Production, discourages student events as prices are too high (costs of rentals, chairs, tables, etc.) x 3
• Improve security during the daytime
• Cheaper textbook costs x 2
• More ATMs/open up ATMs
• More computers/computer labs, especially in the JC x 2
• Have a cigar lounge in the space where George's Restaurant used to be

PRINTING SERVICES (1)
• Printing costs are too high

MASON POLICE (3)
• Mason Police are too aggressive when dealing with students x 2
• Better student rights/more amiable campus police

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (1)
• Have more hand sanitization stations around the campus

University Life (28)
• Keep the flags from I-Week up in the Johnson Center all throughout the year
- Have a Greek Row x 10
- Have more events based off-campus, especially for commuters, but also for residents x 2
- JC Cinema is awesome
- More activities/events for students x 2
- Have more formal dance events, like Homecoming or formals, for ALL students, not just sororities
- More career fairs, especially more firms that are actually hiring
- More student organization involvement on campus, especially for freshmen
- Have a more efficient career fair, not one split into two days based on college
- More events and programs for upper classmen, especially focused on the needs of upper classmen/seniors
- Host more events on campus that can bring attention to the university, get more funding for spots
- Have a football team
- More chances for scholarships
- Have a bigger homecoming, like VCU does
- Increase the variety of class topics
- Spirit Fridays are awesome!
- Better marketing for the Mason Game of the Week

**DIVERSITY (3)**

- More Student Government focus on diversity inclusion around the campus
- More events that are focused on Diversity, especially in getting groups to mix with people outside of their cultural group
- Create an event that is more focused on diversity inclusion (some kind of big event that can bring all kinds of different ethnic groups together)
STUDENT GOVERNMENT (4)

- What happened to the drug policy task force?
- We’re doing OK! x 2
- The EDC should do better to make a competitive election environment/do more to advertise about elections

UPDATES FROM SEPTEMBER’S SEPTEMBER WHAT DO YOU WANT WEDNESDAY

Services

One of the most addressable complaints was the lack of spicy chicken fillet sandwiches and milkshakes at Chick-fil-a. That is, unfortunately, an issue that is a bit outside of Sodexo’s hands. Chick-fil-a has a very strict, specific business model, and at the time of our campus’ Chick-fil-a opening, the company was not sure if these two items would be feasible to have. Our dining administrators are working to try and get both the spicy chicken and milkshakes available here on campus, and we hope to see them before too long.

And of course, the most abundant complaint was in relation to the parking issue. Our two most common, most repeated complaints are for more parking at a cheaper cost. Unfortunately, that just can't work, based on the fact that parking has almost no budget. Their income is based mostly on the funds they receive from parking permit sales and ticketing fees. This money then goes to pay for the shuttles used by Mason, construction, the CUE bus contract, and upkeep. In order to pay for more parking spaces, there would have to be an increase in the costs of permits, or many of our shuttle services would have to be reduced or removed. In order to lower the cost of permits, the same sacrifices would be made, which is a reduction in available services, and no NEW parking, meaning that as Mason continues to grow, finding parking would become more and more difficult.

University Life

Dilan Wickrema, the Chair of the University Life committee, has updates in regards to moving forward. He is in the process of planning more events during the year, especially some focused on the needs of freshmen. Dilan is also working with the desire for a football team by trying to get more turnout at the football club. They are a team that we currently have, and by showing support for them, coming to their games, and really showing that we want to support a team, that will maybe one day set the stones for a stadium and more of the football culture here at Mason. Right now, he hopes to continue to provide support for the team we have, and hopes more students will come out to the team’s games.

Governmental and Academic Affairs

Phillip Abbruscato, the Chair of the Governmental and Academic Affairs committee, is currently involved in working to create a student bill of rights with the Student Body
Attorney General. He is also going to be focusing on creating a good, workable style of advising reform, and is soon going to be meeting with the administrative heads that in charge of academic advising.