MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty and Staff

FROM: Dr. Bob Perkins, Dean of Students and Campus Life
        Wayne Sullivan, Director of Campus Safety

DATE: August 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Driving and Parking on the UC Campus

As you probably know, the College’s business programs have been moved to the Clark City Center in downtown Utica, and this year we will be housing a number of students at the nearby Ramada Inn in New Hartford. Arrangements have been made to shuttle students, faculty, and staff to and from these locations, with all shuttles departing from the front of the Strebel Student Center utica.edu/brvenik. This, in combination with a larger student body and new faculty and staff hires, means that there will be an increased volume of traffic on campus. We wanted to provide UC faculty and staff with information about changes that have been implemented to increase safety for both motorists and pedestrians.

Campus Roadways

• At the recommendation of the NY State Department of Transportation, we will be making a number of changes to our traffic signage and roadways. Over the next several months, we will replace our “branded” traffic signs with DOT-style signs, which are larger and feature icons that are familiar to most motorists and pedestrians.

• Most importantly, we are removing most of the stop signs along the main campus roadway, and adding stop signs at the two entryways into the campus and every parking lot exit. The exception to this will be the stop signs at pedestrian walkways that require motorists to stop only if someone is preparing to enter the crosswalk. The purpose of these changes is to improve the flow of traffic on campus and to avoid giving pedestrians a false sense of security that motorists will stop at every main road stop sign.

• We will also be installing several DOT-style signs near the Welcome Center in an effort to address the all-too-familiar and highly dangerous issue of vehicles using the Burrstone Road entrance lane to exit the campus.

• Efforts to slow traffic along the main campus drive include the addition of yellow-painted “speed tables” and speed limit signs. Additionally, fines for driving and parking violations have been significantly increased, particularly for moving violations (e.g. speeding, reckless...
driving, and failure to obey stop signs).

**Strebel Student Center Circle**

The College will offer bus shuttle services to and from the Clark City Center as well as the Ramada Inn. In order to create a safe zone for passenger pick-up and drop-off, the Strebel Student Center Circle is now closed to all traffic except for handicapped parking on the south side near the library, buses that are dropping off or picking up in front of Strebel, and vendor delivery vehicles, which will be required to use the spaces along the north side of the circle near Boehlert Hall.

**Parking**

We have made and will continue to make changes that increase the number of general parking spots while improving parking options for individuals with disabilities.

- With the exception of the White Hall Circle, we have removed most of the “Reserved for Facilities” signs throughout the campus, and have instructed Facilities Management personnel to park in front of the buildings in which they are working.

- With the completion of the Welcome Center, we removed the Reserved for Admissions signs in Lot A.

- We have moved two handicapped parking spaces from Lot A in front of the Faculty Center to the White Hall Circle, and returned two others to general parking.

- Three spots for vendors and three spots for facilities vehicles have been created on the White Hall Circle parking pad.

- Over the next several months, we will make additional changes that will make it easier and safer for vehicles to enter and exit campus parking lots.

Although there are several options for faculty and staff with offices at the Clark City Center to park in downtown Utica, faculty and staff on the main campus are welcome to use the shuttle bus for transportation to and from the Clark City Center. Students will be strongly encouraged to utilize the shuttle. The shuttle schedule will be posted in front of Strebel as well as online. If you choose to use the shuttle, please park in the Lot C extension across from Boehlert Hall. This area typically has 50-60 open spaces on any given day of the week, and a new entrance will make it easier for vehicles to enter that section of the lot. Additionally, while the parking lot behind Alumni Hall is a bit further away, it always has open spaces.

Rather than driving around looking for a parking space close to your offices, we encourage you, if you are able, to go directly to less frequently used spaces further away and add some additional exercise to your daily routine.

**Monitoring**

Studies conducted last year demonstrated that the number of parking spaces exceeded the number of registered vehicles. Contrary to popular belief, residential students are not driving in droves from their residence halls to faculty/staff/commuter lots for classes. While there are the
occasional cars with residential parking stickers in those lots, far more common are cars with no stickers at all. In an effort to address these issue, beginning this year, we will send a letter to students to update them on the “parking rules”, including the need to obtain a parking sticker and to park in their designated lots.

It is also worth noting that since not all residential students have cars, there are also times when residential lots are not filled, which may lead some to conclude that students living in residence halls have driven their cars to other lots.

That being said, increases to general parking outlined above, the availability of parking downtown for faculty and staff who work at the Clark City Center, and the addition of a shuttle service for both Clark and the Ramada should help to alleviate problems that may arise from a larger student body. We will monitor parking patterns and, if necessary, prepare a proposal to create additional parking as appropriate.

Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.