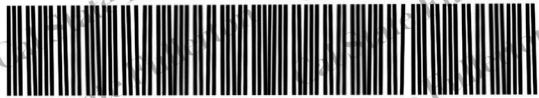


CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON PARKING TICKET

Delay in parking refunds sparks student frustration



Permit prices increased in July despite a decrease of in-person classes.

LÉTICIA PEREZ
Asst. Editor

After the statewide stay-at-home mandate in early March, Cal State Fullerton students returned their parking permits in hopes of receiving a partial refund, but six months later some students say they have not received their money. The University's Parking and Transportation Services has refunded over \$1.6 million to students for the 2020 spring semester parking permits, said Sasha Azoqa, the parking department's communications specialist.

The university began offering refunds in March as students and faculty made the transition from in-person to virtual instruction at the start of the state-issued stay-at-home mandate.

The amount of money issued to students depended on time the permit was returned, according to an Instagram post from the department. Student and resident semester permits were set to receive \$142.50 on-campus permits and \$42.50 for any off-site permits with a postmarked date on or before March 27. Roughly 11,000 students returned their parking permits and received a refund, Azoqa said in an email. The finances used for reimbursements came from the parking permit revenue.

ARIANNA GUTIERREZ / DAILY TITAN

Leslie Peraza, a graduate student, said that she purchased the spring semester permit, was able to return it before the deadline and received a \$142.50 refund in May. However, some students have said that they still have not received a parking permit refund. Jennifer Ruiz, a human services major, said she had not heard back from the department explaining why she has not been issued a refund.

"I sent an email with my cut up permit and attached the permit refund form on March 26, 2020. They said it was okay for me to email them (a photo of) my cut up permit if I didn't want to mail/drop-off the permit on campus for safety reasons," Ruiz said. She said that she recently commented on the department's Instagram page and was then contacted, but had not received any information about a reimbursement. Robert Olivares, a civil engineering major, said that although he received his permit refund in May, he has seen many complaints about a lack of refunds and the raise of parking fees for the fall semester. This semester, only 239 classes were deemed as essential to be held on campus. As of Monday, only 243 student parking permits have been purchased for fall 2020, Azoqa said. She added that roughly 18,000 permits were purchased for the spring semester. This number declined by more than 17,000 as the fall semester went virtual. The major decline in students

who are returning to campus has garnered a pool of concerns regarding whether the department should increase the cost of parking permits. On July 1, semester parking permit prices increased from \$285 to \$334 in order to pay for the newly built \$38.8 million parking structure north of the Eastside Parking Structure. The motorcycle permit will also raise from \$120 to \$140 and the daily parking permit will remain at \$10. "Do you really think it's fair to charge \$334 just to take one in-person class? Especially when most of your students probably aren't working right now and having to help pay rent for their families because of the pandemic," Olivares commented on the department's Instagram page. The department responded by referring to California's Education Code Section 89701, in which a university's parking organization cannot receive state or university funding, so it has to rely on user-fees that directly fund the parking operations.

Azoqa said that the Eastside North Parking Structure was financed for 25 years. The Eastside North Parking Structure is now complete and is set to open this semester. The structure will provide an additional 1,900 parking spaces to the 8,047 already available. Parking regulations will continue to be enforced this semester in all lots on weekdays. More information on parking services can be found on parking.fullerton.edu.

Book fee causes concern

Titan Direct Access could charge students for unordered textbooks.

KARINA GUTIERREZ
Editor

Students could now be charged for books they did not order under a new software change through the Cal State Fullerton Titan Direct Access Program, a service that offers digital course materials to students through the campus portal.

The change came after publishers, who first partnered with the Division of Information Technology and Titan Shops in 2016, recently said they would no longer support the opt-in pricing option, forcing the university to either end the program or change its course.

SEE OPT-OUT | 3



Faculty struggle to keep students engaged during class lectures

ADAM MALDONADO / DAILY TITAN

An empty classroom in College Park amid virtual instruction.

Instructors confront challenges as the school adjusts to online classes.

NICOLE TRINIDAD
Editor

There is no denying that this semester changed drastically compared to past semesters. Instead of leaving

an hour early to find parking, long walks from building to building and seeing friends and staff you haven't seen since the prior term, most of us are stuck at home doing virtual learning this semester.

There were some changes that have taken place since the start of lockdown in March.

Teachers had to help their

students transition from in-person classes to virtual learning right in the middle of the spring semester. Starting this school year Cal State Fullerton is slowly transitioning from Titanium to the course management system Canvas by 2021. This semester, many teachers are using the new system to organize assignments, tests, quizzes and

Zoom meetings.

CSUF confirmed that there are 239 courses that are approved to be taught in-person.

However, the transition for teachers has its challenges. Judith Perez, Chicano and Chicana studies professor at CSUF, said she is facing different struggles with teaching online this semester.

"For the courses I teach, a lot of them are discussion courses, so we heavily rely on discussions and body language," Perez said. "That one on one interaction and that physical energy you gain from some of the discussions that we have are one of the hardest things for me now."

A common issue that occurs with virtual education is poor internet service. As a professor, Perez said she tries to accommodate for students who have technical problems in different ways. She said one method she has tried was pre-recorded lectures which have not been successful.

"Last year, one of the things I tried to do was record (lectures), but because (students) shared these deep discussions that are private, I had to say 'No we can't record it anymore,' to make sure that they felt safe," Perez said.

While online classes have been difficult, in-person classes have also had major changes.

Edward Fink, a professor for TV studio production, said some of the new measures for his in-person class includes: reducing the class size, hand sanitizers provided by the office of Environmental Health and Instructional Safety, installed plexiglass dividers and sanitizing all the production equipment.

WHAT'S

Shame has no place in sustainability efforts



Environmentalists must hold politicians and fossil fuel corporations accountable for their impact.

Opinion | 6

Athletic Department discusses social change



Cal State Fullerton Athletics started their Voices Heard campaign to spread awareness on racism.

Sports | 8