Calculating new route
Transportation Services unveils new buses, app progress

Some of the buses, old and newer, in the UL Lafayette transportation fleet. New buses have recently been purchased and added to the fleet.

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The University of Louisiana at Lafayette may be in for some interesting changes to its Office of Transportation Services (OTS). The office has long been dedicated to ensuring the safety of University of Louisiana at Lafayette students as well as the efficiency of transportation around campus. UL Lafayette shuttles and buses have provided rides to students to and from Bourgeois Hall, to countless Ragin' Cajun sporting events and to the parking lots at Cajun Field.

With such a large number of on-campus residents, however, there have been difficulties and, therefore, an equal amount of complaints, said Quinn Sells, a junior who uses they/them pronouns to self-identify.

They said they often take a bus from campus to their job in Bourgeois Hall.

“They’re cramped,” Sells complained. “And they take a long time to come sometimes. It can take up to 30 minutes when you call them.”

Sells said some changes would be welcome.

“I think it would be pretty cool,” they said. “I think, with all the students living on campus, an app would be great.”

After receiving some feedback from students and working closely with the SGA, OTS Director Stuart Glaeser announced new additions that will hopefully alleviate some of the stresses.

Three new buses have been added to UL Lafayette’s fleet. Each of the new buses is in good condition and is equipped with handicap-accessible lifts.

Glaeser said he hopes the increase in buses will reduce the wait times for transportation, as well as open the possibility for additional routes.

Another addition is also in the works: a functioning smart phone application (for iOS and Android) in connection with the UL Lafayette fleet. The application will provide students with information on routes, important announcements and minute-to-minute updates on estimated arrival times. It will also allow students to request an evening shuttle with their smartphones rather than having to make a call. The request would be sent straight to an available driver.

Glaeser said he hopes that through this app, OTS can provide better customer service to those students who use the on-campus transportation. It can also provide the department with useful data about the transit system and those who use it.

“I am excited about the addition of the buses and what that means for the university, as well as adding the mobile app for students,” Glaeser said. “These two items will drastically improve service for students.”

Glaeser said he hopes that along with increasing efficiency in the transit system, these new additions will also help in evaluating what still needs improvement for future changes.

UL Lafayette student falsifies police report, charged by LPD

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A University of Louisiana at Lafayette student was issued a misdemeanor summons for filing a false police report, according to Cpl. Bridgette Dugas with the Lafayette Police Department.

Khadija Altamimi, an 18-year-old student of Middle Eastern descent, told ULPD at 11 a.m. Wednesday that two men — one of whom was wearing a white Donald Trump hat — knocked her to the ground on Smith Street near Buena Vista Boulevard and beat her with a metal object while yelling obscenities. The reported hate crime was further investigated by the LPD, as the incident allegedly occurred off campus.

The incident was communicated to UL Lafayette students via email around 7 p.m. the same day. The story garnered national attention after racially-charged incidents of graffiti and threats sprang up around U.S. campuses.

According to LPD, Altamimi admitted she was fictitious around 2:30 p.m. Thursday. Filing a fictitious police report is considered an obstruction of justice and can result in up to a $500 fine and 30 days in prison.

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Image of the Lafayette Police Department building.

Photo by Sophie Berard / The Vermilion

Photo from klfy.com