

Question Time

The use of battery-powered, plug-in hybrid, and pure electric vehicles is rising on our campus. Some of these vehicles need to be plugged overnight into regular 120-volt electric outlets, the same as household electric sockets, while higher voltage outlets may be needed for faster charging. Some of the users of these vehicles live in apartments with no access to electric outlets for overnight charging. This creates the need to charge during the day while they work or attend classes. The need is evident in Parking Garages 1 and 2, where a spot-check confirmed a few such vehicles plugged into the few power outlets located next to the emergency blue light posts. This need for plug in outlets on campus will only keep rising in keeping with the growing incentives for car owners to consider going electric. Thus, providing reliable car-charging outlets on campus would be a step in the direction of the future, not to mention that it would also encourage students and employees to come to campus. The question is, what steps is the university taking to address the rising need for car charging electric outlets on campus?

J. Mbuba