Why were the meters in Signers’ and Eielson replaced with a kiosk?

The change from meters to a kiosk for parking payment was done as part of an effort to improve several aspects of parking operations. Campus visitors now have the option to pay for parking with credit cards or quarters. Change is available from a change machine in Signers' Hall between the vending machines or at the Bursar's Office for those who prefer to use cash. Aside from the convenience of multiple payment methods, the kiosks also provide receipts for visitors who require them.

Use of the kiosks has the additional benefit of reducing the staff time required to collect coins from the 95 meters located around campus. The age and temperamental nature of the meters in cold weather also frequently cause problems. The cost of replacing the individual meters and continuing to collect coins from each one were costs that made sense to eliminate in the current budget climate.

Parking is an auxiliary function at UAF, meaning it does not receive general university funds. Parking revenues also support electricity costs associated with head bolt heaters, snow removal, parking lot maintenance and helps fund the campus shuttle.

Several changes have been implemented over the past couple years to move parking closer to a self-sustaining model. After presenting numerous options for parking operations to governance groups (Chancellor's Cabinet, Staff Council, Faculty Senate, Deans' Council, and ASUA, among others) and conducting a survey, the most supported option was to increase the hourly and daily parking rates.

Parking prices are approved by Chancellor's Cabinet. The increase in hourly parking was actually approved last year, but we elected to wait until the kiosk was in place before implementing the change. Daily, hourly and weekly parking rates have been unchanged for more 10 years and an increase was necessary. The cost of regular permits has not been increased since 2012.

More payment options are coming in the near future. Look for the option to extend-by-phone and pay-by-phone (pay from your car!).