

Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2019

Present: Daniel Byrne, Marc Geborkoff, Bonnie Gorman, Lynda Heinonen, Beka Horsch, Mia Kempainen, Gail Kotajari-Gerard, Margaret Landsparger, Dan Liebau Pattie Luokkanen, Laura Putwen, Zoe Quinn, Chris Roy, Malissa Sanon

Welcome

Daniel welcomed the Student Commission members to the meeting and reviewed the goals.

- To provide a venue for students, faculty and staff to have an open dialogue about the types of programs, services and opportunities that contribute to a successful educational experience.
- To eliminate barriers or obstacles that stand in the way of student success.
- To define a set of best practices to guide us in our relations with students and other University constituents.
- To ensure that the student voice is heard and that students are provided a forum to express their support, ideas and concerns.
- To enrich student success on campus by providing them with a high quality, student friendly academic and co-curricular experience.

Co-Chairs

GSG Vice President Daniel Byrne, USG Vice President Ziggy Bell and Associate Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Bonnie Gorman will serve as Student Commission co-chairs for the 2019-20 academic year. Each year the newly elected GSG and USG Vice Presidents serve as student co-chairs and Bonnie will be replacing Les Cook and Travis Pierce.

Updates

Non-Motorized Transportation Working Group Sub-Committee – Dan

Dan gave a brief history of why the sub-committee was formed (concern about congestion on campus and safety issues).

Dan distributed the non-motorized transportation group planning schedule that the sub-committee had created last spring. Since the committee did not meet over the summer, the schedule is a bit behind so Dan would like to see the group re-invigorated and define how to move forward.

After lengthy discussion the following was decided:

- Bonnie Gorman will contact Dan Bennett, Police Commissioner and Executive Director of University Safety and Security and Bryant Weathers, Chair, Campus Bike Initiative Group to determine what the next steps will be.
- Once a consensus has been reached, a meeting with President Koubek will be scheduled.

New Items

Expanded Spaces and Services in the Library – Patti

The expansion of the library's 24-hour study space allows students overnight access to seven group-study rooms, 44 computers, two printers, and four additional restrooms.

The entrances to the overnight space will remain the same, either through the Rekhi bridge entrance or the overnight west entrance of the library using a valid Husky ID card. Four more security cameras have also added.

In addition, the Library has purchased 50 multi-charger cords and these are placed throughout the Library (iPhone, Type C, Micro USB) and five HappyLights that can be checked out for a four-hour time period. This has been advertised in Tech Today and the Student NewsBrief. It was suggested that Patti contact Amber Bennett in Counseling Services to let her know about the lights.

Grant Funding Opportunities – Bonnie

Bonnie reported that there are grant funding opportunities on Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyle, Behavioral Health, Community Impact and she is looking for forums in which to have conversations about these topics, get student input, and to determine what has value to the students. (currently Wellness students and another student organization have expressed interest). After discussion, it was decided that Bonnie will bring these opportunities to the two groups and report back to the Student Commission.

Discuss Meetings Dates and Times – Bonnie

In order to make it easier for students to attend the Student Commission meetings, it was proposed that meetings be shortened to one hour (rather than an hour-an-half) and to move the meeting time from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

After discussion, it was decided that Lynda will check if the USG Vice President has a class at 4:00 p.m. (he does), and if so the time of the meeting would remain at 2:00 p.m. but the meetings would only be scheduled for one hour. Meetings will continue to be scheduled on the second and fourth Thursday during the academic year. Meetings have been updated.

Student Commission Promotion

In the past the Student Commission has hosted a table outside/inside the Library and had displayed a banner (currently in Wads storage room), gave away cookies, distributed business cards, and explained what the Student Commission was all about.

In the past Les and Travis covered the cost of promotion and Bonnie will continue to do so in the future.

Suggestions for fall 2019 included:

- Print business cards and place in high traffic areas
 - Lynda will order

- Film Board slide
 - Daniel
- Table Tents
 - Lynda will share files
 - Daniel and Zoe will design
- Podcast
- Radio
- Piggy-back on events that are being held
- A table in the Library can be requested
 - <https://www.mtu.edu/library/services/library-amenities/library-scheduling/>
- Student Newsbrief

The first steps will be to print business cards and create a table tent and a film board slide.

Student Commission/USG/GSG – Daniel

Daniel questioned if the three group are competing with each other in regards to student concerns. It was commented that the original intent of the Student Commission membership was that it be made up of staff and faculty who are decision makers and if possible could fast-track a resolution to a concern.

Road Lines – Dan

Dan reported that the lines on Houghton Avenue were painted during the summer (this was a Student Commission request). It was commented that this has been very much appreciated by people.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2019, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the MUB, Ballroom A1.

Fall Meeting Dates

- Thursday, September 26, 2019, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, October 10, 2019, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, October 24, 2019, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, November 14, 2019, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, December 12, 2019, 2:00 p.m., Admin 404