

Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2020, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Memorial Union Building, Ballroom A1

Present: Daniel Byrne, John Frischmon, Marc Geborkoff, Lynda Heinonen, Bonnie Gorman, Beka Horsch, Mia Kempainen, Gail Kotajarvi-Gerard, Margaret Landsparger, Dan Liebau, Pattie Luokkanen, Cameron Miller, Benjamin Petrie, Zoe Quinn, Melanie Thomas

Welcome and Introductions – Daniel

Updates

Non-Motorized Transportation Working Group Report on Meeting – Daniel

Daniel reported that a survey will be sent to the constituents of the University Senate, USG, and GSG the week of January 27. It will also be posted in Tech Today for individuals who aren't represented by these three groups. They will report back once the survey results have been compiled.

Dan reported he had submitted a capital project request that aligns with the US41 reconstruction project. It goes with some of the master planning that they are proposing in the Non-Motorized Transportation plan. It would provide a better connection from Houghton Avenue to campus. Nothing is finalized but he's hoping this moves forward.

Food on Campus at Night – Daniel

Daniel explained at the last meeting, concern was expressed that if graduate students are on campus later in the evening they don't have access to food unless they walk over the Wadsworth Hall. Also, the idea of healthy food options were discussed. There was a suggestion to turn the Library Café refrigerator into a vending machine.

Daniel met with Dining Services to explore options and they volunteered to look into what technical details they would have to take care of on their part in converting a refrigerator over to a vending machine. Also Dining Services would prefer if they could contract out to vendors but currently they only have one. They will look into what alternative vending options are available and report back to him.

Daniel questioned if USG could get a good sense of how often undergraduate students would access a healthier vending machine. Melanie will bring this up at a USG meeting.

It was commented that at one time a vending machine by the former Aftermath (Fisher Hall) was stocked with apples and sandwiches but now it is empty.

Mia suggested that a healthy vending machine could be moved into the 24-hour space in the Library. Currently there is one in that area but it only has chips and snacks.

It was commented that the Library Café is open until 10:00 p.m. but there would be financial considerations in having it open later hours.

Daniel will discuss the idea of a vending machine that would have healthy snacks with Dining Services.

Sidewalk Between M&M Building and Commuter Lot – Daniel

At the previous meeting, Daniel questioned if there would be funding to put a sidewalk between the M&M Building and the Commuter Lot.

Dan commented that he is happy to report the sidewalk will be completed this summer. It was supposed to be done last fall but they ran out of time. It was questioned if the sidewalk will be plowed in the winter. It will be but the core of campus has a higher priority.

M&M Signage Re-visited

Dan reported that he had reached out to Gregg Richards (Director Engineering Services) and Tim Griffin (Director of Maintenance Services) to discuss the wayfinding signs in the M&M Building. He explained how the Student Commission has recommendations for signage after conducting a lengthy study of the building.

Gregg responded that they may be able to use some funding from their exterior sign project and possibly provide some base plates or directories. He questioned who would coordinate where they go and what was on them. He won't know what remaining funds are available until later this semester. If there is funding, it would probably be a summer installation.

Lynda will share the information she has with Dan. Lynda commented that a good resource is Owen Mills (Senior Research Engineering/Scientist). His office is in the M&M Building and he was involved in the process of determining what signs should be in the building.

Women's Bathroom's in the MEEM

Dan reported that he had reached out to Gregg Richards (Director Engineering Services) and Tim Griffin (Director of Maintenance Services) to discuss the inadequate number of women's restroom facilities in the MEEM.

Gregg responded that there are three Capital Project Planning requests for bathroom updates/reconfigurations in the ME-EM, Chem-Sci, and EERC to address the gender inequality issue. These are being reviewed and compared to other projects on the list but does not know if funding will be allocated, but they are out there for review.

Bathroom Hooks in Stalls

Dan reported that he had reached out to Gregg Richards (Director Engineering Services) and Tim Griffin (Director of Maintenance Services) to discuss the idea of providing hooks or utility shelving in restrooms so bags, backpacks, and apparel can be placed on these to avoid getting wet from sand and salt during the winter months.

Gregg responded that that should be easy enough to do and his recommendation was that they be installed inside the stalls because if they are hung outside it would be very easy for someone to steal the bags. Or possibly include a locker of sort outside the restrooms. He did comment to keep in mind the JED issue with providing an easy opportunity for someone to hang themselves. Bonnie volunteered to reach out to Amber Bennett (Director, Counseling Services) to find out what her recommendation would be.

Dan asked the Student Commission members what buildings they would recommend hooks or shelves be added to in the restrooms. After discussion, it was decided the Library and the Memorial Union Building. Dan will report back at the next meeting regarding the probability of this project being completed.

Baby Changing Stations

Dan reported that he had reached out to Gregg Richards (Director Engineering Services) and Tim Griffin (Director of Maintenance Services) to discuss baby changing stations on campus because concern had been expressed that there are not enough stations across campus.

Gregg responded that they could add to their website a map showing where all of the changing stations are located on campus. He did comment that code does not require them everywhere but he felt like they were in most public locations. A lot of the older restrooms are not laid out in a way to easily add them and currently there is not a plan to add them everywhere. The current locations are determined when they did renovations and/or new construction. He questioned if there was a specific location that should be brought to their attention.

It was commented that if there is room, baby changing stations should be added to both men's and women's restrooms.

It was questioned where a Facilities Work Order could be submitted. Go to <https://www.mtu.edu/facilities/> click on Work Order Request, login using your user name and ISO password and then fill out the form.

Metered Parking Spots and Graduate Lot/Commuter Lot – Gail

The Student Commission had received two complaints:

- In the winter people park so that all the metered spots cannot be utilized.
- There are a lot of empty spots in the Graduate Parking Lot

Gail commented that there is not much they can do about people parking in the winter when they cannot see the lines. They would ticket if a person was parking where it wasn't legal but otherwise they do not.

Gail had her staff monitor the graduate lot and there were approximately 40 open spots at 9:00 a.m., at 11:00 a.m. there are a handful of open spots but by 1:00 p.m. it is full. Gail commented that she would be open to meeting with USG and GSG to discuss but at this point that is the best she can do. It was questioned if it would be possible for undergraduate students to be able to utilize the open spots from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Gail responded that she couldn't ask the commuter students to leave at 10:00 a.m.

New Items

Library Hours for Winter Carnival

Library Services

February 5	7 am – 8 pm	Wednesday
February 6 – 7	8 am – 6 pm	Thursday - Friday
February 8	9 am – 7 pm	Saturday
February 9	9 am – Midnight	Sunday

Opie Library

February 5	Overnight library access will be closed	Wednesday
February 6 – 9	Open 24/7 w/valid HuskyCard	Thursday - Sunday

Plowing the Sidewalk to the SDC – Bonnie

Bonnie reported that she received an email from a student complaining about plowing on the MacInnes sidewalk. Bonnie questioned if we can communicate this to the City of Houghton (since they are responsible for plowing the sidewalk). Dan reported that the City does plow the sidewalk twice a day but because of the heavy foot traffic it is difficult to keep up. It was suggested that could it be plowed when students are in class?

Wads Parking Lot – Melanie

Melanie commented that the parking lot behind Wads wasn't plowed on Sunday (after Saturday's heavy snowfall) and people couldn't park or get out of the lot. Dan commented that the parking was plowed on that day but residential lots are last because they do the core campus first so that people can get to campus. He reported that lots are cleaned out three times a year (semester break, spring break, and one other time that is determined amount of snowfall). The policy states that students are required to shovel behind and in front of their cars to get out. Dan commented that they do the best they can with the resources they have. Dan will bring a condensed plow schedule to the next meeting.

If you have a need to report a snow issue please go the Facilities Management website to report <https://www.mtu.edu/facilities/> click on Work Order Request, login using your user name and ISO password and then fill out the form.

Zoe commented that Facilities Management is really good at plowing close to the cars without hitting them.

Agenda Items – Bonnie

Bonnie asked the students present to talk to their constituents and if they have items they would like discussed at upcoming meetings to add it to the agenda.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2020, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Ballroom A1

2020 Spring Meeting Dates

- Thursday, February 27, 2020, 2:00 p.m., G17/G19
- Thursday, March 26, 2020, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, April 9, 2020, 2:00 p.m., MUB Ballroom A1
- Thursday, April 23, 2020, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Ballroom A1