

**Student Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 13, 2017**

**Present: Jonathan Davey, Marc Geborkoff, Lynda Heinonen, Bobby Lawrence, Josh Marshall, Erin Matas, Carol McCullah, Margo O'Brien, Travis Pierce, Brenda Rudiger, Kerri Sleeman, Lori Weir, Justin Zhang**

**Guests: Christy Oslund, Erin Richie, and Maddy Duensing**

**Welcome and Introductions**

The current GSGG Vice President Justin Zhang introduced the new GSG Vice President Josh Marshall who will serve as co-chair for the Student Commission in the 2017-18 academic year. Hattie Kinnisten is the new USG Vice President and will also serve as Student Commission co-chair.

**Presentation – Disabilities Research Findings – Maddy Duensing and Erin Richie**

Erin Richie and Maddy Duensing presented their Disabilities Research Findings regarding the Michigan Tech campus.

- Overview
- Purpose and Goal
- Student Response Summary
- Community Response Summary
- Physical Therapist Input
- Disability Services (MTU and NMU)
- Transportation Services
- Photos of problem areas
- Design Problems for Consideration
- How Did we Narrow it Down
- Initial Design Thoughts
- We've realized a Mechanical Design Won't be Enough
- Call to Action
- Thank you for listening

They commented that they are not here to condemn the current state of the University but rather want to bring attention to things that could be improved for students with disabilities.

Comments and questions included:

- We need to work together as a community to change/improve things
- Facilities Management has an online form to report "things" that are not working on campus <http://www.mtu.edu/facilities/maintenance/requests/>
  - This needs to be communicated to students
- How do we please everyone and treat everybody equally?
- Let's start a conversation on what it like to be injured or disabled

- Conversations are happening but funding isn't always available
- The Board of Trustees wants to hear solutions not complaints
- Transportation Services is going to ask the ADA committee to do a holistic review of parking on campus from an ADA compliance perspective
- Why don't we have students working on Michigan Tech projects?
  - There are 19 groups working on projects this semester with 15 faculty supporting them

Travis questioned "What is next the next step from a student perspective?" He suggested a recommendation be proposed to USG and GSG to form a small committee starting from the aspect of:

- Little to no money costs
- Minimal costs
- Big money costs

Josh will bring this to both USG and GSG. It was suggested that if a committee is formed, Josh should "create a charge" for it. Travis volunteered to help him do this.

#### **Maintenance – Campus Bike Stations**

No update.

#### **Skate Board/Long Board Rack – Erin**

Erin reported that the skate board/long board racks are up and being used. The Library staff is working on temporary signage to explain the racks.

Kerri will contact Jacob if he has created a long-term management plan and how to track usage.

#### **Textbook Cache Project – Josh**

Josh reported the following regarding the textbook cache "pilot" project:

- Creative Suites is working on a poster
- Donation boxes will be going to departments soon
- He will be contacting the volunteers to pick up the books
- The books will be delivered to the Library and stored (until the summer)
- Josh will organize them this summer
- He will contact the Bookstore to determine what books have been used/going to be used
- Books that aren't used by students can be donated to the Friends of the Library or Portage Library
- This pilot program may possibly expand some of the reserve books in the Library
- He will come up with recommendations on how to move forward
- The goal is to get books to students who need them

**Contract Holder – Travis**

Travis reported they hired a student to develop an agreement that can be used between the contract holder and the co-tenant. Currently it is being reviewed by Paul Tomasi. When it is completed it will be posted on the Housing and Res Life website as a voluntary resource for the students.

**USG Funding – Jonathan**

Jonathan reported that USG funded a water bottle filler in the Library and the Library paid for another one. So there are now water bottle fillers on each floor in the Library.

The recycling bins proposal is still under discussion.

**Graduating?**

If you are graduating this spring, congratulations! Please let Lynda know so she can remove you from the Google Group.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting that was scheduled for Thursday, April 27 has been canceled. If there are issues that come up over the summer, Lynda will schedule a meeting. Otherwise we'll plan for the Student Commission to start meetings again in September 2017.

**Fall Meeting Dates**

- September 14, 2017, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- September 28, 2017, 2:00 pm, Admin 404
- October 12, 2017, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- October 26, 2017, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- November 9, 2017, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- December 14, 2017, 2:00 pm, Admin 404