

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 2015**

Present: Donna Beels, Lynda Heinonen, Judy Klutts, Angie Kolehmainen, William Lytle, Carol Makkonen, Dave Nordstrom, Margo O'Brien, Abbey Senczyszyn, Chris Wojick

Welcome – Will

New Items

Sustainability Strategic Plan – Will

Will reported that there has been discussion in student groups about Michigan Tech creating a Sustainability Strategic plan. Timelines for 1 year, 5 year, and 30 year plans should be developed and processes be put into place. He suggested it include housing, transportation, food waste, and it should also include economics, and social justice.

It was commented that a lot of energy conservation is taking place on campus that people are not aware of. It was suggested that this be publicized so potential students, their parents, staff, faculty, and current students are aware of what is going on with sustainability.

Will suggested in the future in order to better support sustainability two positions be created:

- 1) Energy Coordinator
- 2) Sustainability Coordinator

Will also asked the members present to think about sustainability and it can be a discussion item at future meetings.

Updates

Transportation Services – Angie

Angie Kolehmainen distributed the following handout at the meeting:

GETTING AROUND TOWN

Zipcar

Zipcar is car-sharing, an alternative to bringing a car to school, that gives members 24/7 access to vehicles parked right on campus. Low hourly and daily rates include gas, insurance, and 180 miles per day to go wherever you want to go. Zipcar is for all Michigan Tech students, faculty, and staff who are at least 18 years old. Members can reserve cars online or with a smart phone for as little as an hour or up to four days. This year, enjoy all the freedom of owning a car without any of the hassle. There are three Zipcar vehicles on the MichiganTech campus for your convenience. A Ford Focus hatchback is centrally located near the Memorial Union Building, a Ford Escape is located in front of Wadsworth Hall (Lot 15) and another Ford Escape is located in the Lower Daniell Heights visitor section (V4 on the campus map).

Find out more about how it works and to register to use this service, visit zipcar.com/mtu.

Transportation Services Shuttle

Transportation Services operates a shuttle service that runs from the Memorial Union Building, to the SDC, through Daniell Heights, and back to the Memorial Union Building.

For the current shuttle route and time schedule, please visit the Transportation Services website: www.mtu.edu/facilities/parking/information.

Taxi*

Neil's Cab | (906)-482-5515

-Hancock, Michigan

-Local and long-distance trips

Houghton City Transit

The city of Houghton provides a low-cost bus service and Michigan Tech students may use it at a discounted rate!

To arrange a ride or to learn more about the City Transit services, please call 482-6092 or visit www.cityofhoughton.com/info-transit.php.

Hancock City Transit

The city of Hancock offers public transit between the hours of 7a.m.-5p.m., Monday-Friday. Call 482-3450 for a ride or visit www.cityofhancock.com for more information.

Airport/Airport Shuttle

Houghton County Memorial Airport | (906)-482-3970

Copper Country Limo | (906)-370-4761

-Calumet, Michigan

-Smoke Free Service

National Car Rental | (906)-482-6655

Motorist Assistance Program

Persons needing on-campus assistance dealing with vehicle problems can contact Transportation Services for help. We can provide assistance with flat tires, running out of gas, and dead car batteries at no charge. For other problems, we can assist you in contacting the appropriate service depending on your needs.

The Transportation Services office is located in the Administration Building Room 100. You may also call 487-1441. Transportation Services is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Towing Services*

- Dave's BP/Amoco Service | (906)-482-3410
- Big T Towing | (906)-370-1194
- Superior Service Towing | (906)-482-7666

****These lists are by no means inclusive. They were compiled for informational purposes only. Michigan Technological University is not endorsing these companies and encourages you to look online or in the Yellow Pages for a more complete list.***

Vehicle Registration – Angie

Angie reported that Transportations Services is researching and will implement improvements for next fall's vehicle registration.

Uber or Lyft Rides – Angie

Angie reported that Transportation Services is not looking into Uber or Lyft rides. She commented that after reviewing the website it seems to be a more of user system not something that Michigan Tech would manage.

Will commented that they were looking at ways to improve carpooling and the shuttle without interfering with the cost of insurance. Will commented that he had visited their websites also and the information online was vague. Angie volunteered to reach out to contacts she has with other Universities for more information on Uber and Lyft.

Cottonwood Tree – Will

Will reported that he had received the following email from James Schmierer, Forest Resources regarding the Cottonwood tree:

"The tree is obviously in decline, likely as a result of the wave of construction near it from 5 or so years ago. There are some large, dead limbs and some other dieback. I recommend trimming the dead branches out of it and fertilizing, but I saw what they did to that tree during the construction, so the response may be limited. Tons of materials were piled all around the tree as well as lots of machine traffic, which compacts the soil and damages fine roots; they excavated a large trench near the tree and damaged at least 1/4 to 1/3 of the root system; no remedial action was taken until they called me after the whole tree turned yellow and a few alumni called who were worried about the tree. At that time, I recommended pruning off the damaged roots prior to filling the trench, removing all construction materials from around the tree, erecting a snow fence or other barrier at the extent of the dripline (canopy outer perimeter) to prevent further vehicle traffic, and then trimming dead branches and watering/fertilizing. They did most of what I recommended, but a tree in decline such as this will continue to show damage from construction for 3-7 years following the events. It will likely have to be removed within 5-10 years, but could become a more serious hazard within a year or two."

Angie commented that she will pass on this information to the gardening/ground crew.

Library Food and Drink Policy – Carol

Carol reported she had misspoke at the last meeting. The Library the Food and Drink Enforcement Policy has not been finalized. Once it has been finalized she will report back on how enforcement is going.

It was questioned if staff can confiscate food if people do not follow rules. Carol commented that they do not touch any items (that includes phones, back packs, etc.)

Dining Hall Meal Swipes – Judy

Judy reported this is a work in progress and will not be changing anytime soon. Re-wiring will have to take place and this cannot happen until school is not in session.

Bike Lanes on Campus/Community – Lynda

Lynda reported that both the Houghton and Hancock City Managers (Eric Waara and Glenn Anderson) will be at the next meeting to discuss bike paths in their communities. Angie will represent Facilities Management at this meeting.

Will had created and passed around a map of campus that had a bike path that circled the campus (on the outskirts).

Will estimated that there are 50-100 students who bike to campus in the winter.

Donna reported a lot of bicycles are abandoned each year on campus (approximately 80 last year). Grounds/Facilities then have to pick up and store them each winter while they try to locate the owners (bicycles are supposed to be registered). Due to liability issues, they cannot give them away unless a group will “take responsibility” for them. If the owners are not found and a group does not take responsibility, the bikes will need to be disposed of. It was commented that while it is great for the environment if people bike to campus it is not environmentally friendly if they are abandoned and then subsequently trashed.

Promotion of Student Commission

Lynda reported the that table tents had been placed in the Memorial Union, Wadsworth Dining Hall, McNair Dining Hall, and DHH Dining Hall on Monday, October 5.

Other suggestions to promote the Student Commission included:

- Promotion table
 - Memorial Union
 - Orientation Week
 - K-Day

It was questioned if the Student Commission meetings should be added to the University Calendar.

Lynda commented that in years past the Student Commission had seen higher student attendance than in the last few years. It was commented that students seem to be more complacent about issues and some don't want to make the effort because they aren't going to be at the University for an extended time period. It was also commented that electronics are making students less efficient and this makes for less time to devote to outside interests.

Women's Restroom – Abbey

Abbey questioned how she could go about reporting that the stall doors in the Women's Restroom do not lock (near Dow 641). Lynda commented that students, staff, and faculty can report a problem at <http://www.mtu.edu/facilities/maintenance/requests/>. The instructions are included on this page and are easy to use. Abbey will submit the request and will report back at the next meeting if the issue was resolved.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22 at 2:00 pm in Ballroom B2&B3, Memorial Union Building.



Bike path to Houghton and Chassell 

Paths that lead to on-campus bike racks 