

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, November 8, 2018**

Present: Jimmie Cannon, Les Cook, Carley Davis, Prathamesh Deshpande, Marc Geborkoff, Lynda Heinonen, Beka Horsch, Judy Klutts, Dan Liebau, Keith Machiela, Carol McCullah, Wesley McGowan, Laura Putwen, Travis Pierce, Anita Quinn, Chris Roy, Brenda Rudiger, David Zei

Welcome – Jimmie

Presentation

Dan Bennett, Police Commissioner and Executive Director for University Safety and Security

Dan reported there is a process for students with temporary disabilities to obtain parking. Kristi Isaacson is working on updating the Transportation Services website to make the process more transparent for students. This will be completed by December 1st.

He reported the following regarding shuttle service and parking:

- The budget for the shuttle service is between \$250,000-\$300,000
- He reiterated that the University does not have a parking problem but rather a shortage of convenient parking spots
- He is working on providing better signage
- He reported the following possibilities in the future
 - Moving Husky Motors (it would provide parking spots for students, staff, faculty, and visitors)
 - Build an additional lot off of Garnet Street
 - Turn Cliff Drive into a one way street, this would allow additional parking spots to be created

It was questioned if there could be more spots sold in Lot 11 because the lot appears to be only half full most of the time. Dan will look into this and report back.

It was questioned if the shuttles could be re-routed to the various parking lots to pick up students and bring them to campus. This would keep cars away from the core campus but provide students a way to get there. Dan commented that he will look into idea but it would require additional funding.

Dan commented that he is always available to talk to students, staff, and faculty. He can be reached at ddbennet@mtu.edu or 487-3025.

Presentation – Campus Bike Initiative Group

Josh Myles, Nancy Banfield, and Mike Abbott

Josh Myles presented on the Campus Bike Initiative Group (see attached pdf document). For more information on their group go to mtu.edu/bike or to email campus-bike-initiative-l@mtu.edu

Updates

Signage Committee Report – Anita

Anita reported a Google Doc has been established and they are getting comments from the signage committee. Once they receive everybody's feedback they will move onto the next step.

Anita commented that Jacob is graduating in the fall and would like another Student Commission member to join the sub-committee. Wesley expressed interest in contributing to this team.

Bicycle Free Zone

Lynda distributed comments that had come to the Student Commission email regarding the bicycle free zone. Comments while not numerous were not positive.

Comments from people present at this meeting regarding the recent bicycle free zone included:

- They didn't feel like people were paying attention to the banners
- One banner is missing
- The two remaining banners will be removed now that the snow is here
- How was the area chosen to place the banners? High traffic area
- Maybe it caught people off guard because they weren't aware of it. It was advertised
- This was addressed due to an initial safety complaint
- The committee wanted to start small and see what the response would be this fall before coming up with a bigger plan for the spring
- All of the groups need to work together to try and come up solutions
- MDOT will have draft plans by May for the 2021 project
- Could there be a bike lane on Cliff Drive if it goes to one way?
- How do we convey to students that it is a safety issue? Need to look at education piece
- The Campus Bike Initiative Group tried to get an education piece during Orientation but was told that students are already on overload
 - It was suggested that it be built into the Public Safety and Housing piece
 - Marc volunteered to talk to Reid DeVoge about this
- Could we advertise at Spring Fling?
- How many bikes are registered?
- Create a winter bike driving video
- It was suggested that it be promoted at student meetings

Dan asked that this remain on the agenda so it can be discussed over the winter months to possibly develop a plan for when the biking season begins again in the spring.

New Items

Wadsworth Dining Hall Dish Loading Window

Lynda distributed an email that had been sent to the Student Commission from a student employee who works at Wadsworth Hall. They were concerned when it gets busy people are not always respectful towards the kitchen staff when loading dishes/silverware in the dish loading windows.

Judy offered to discuss this with her staff.

Crosswalks

Lynda distributed an email that had been sent to the Student Commission email. The person suggested that additional lighted crosswalks be installed along key points on the highway.

Dan commented that US 41 is a state trunk line and MDOT will determine if there are changes to it or not. He commented that the City of Houghton has tried a number of different experiments (for example the signs in the middle of the road) but hasn't had a lot of success.

Michigan Tech can make requests or recommendations to MDOT and Dan will add this to the discussion with them. Hopefully there will be improvements with the 2021 project.

It was commented that College Avenue is going to be changed to a three lane road in 2021.

Lights on Campus – Dan

Dan reported he knows there are some lights out on campus. Parts are on order and soon as they are received the lights will be replaced.

Fitness Center – Chris

At the last meeting it was suggested that the Fitness Center should be updated and expanded. Chris reported the following:

- They upgrade the equipment on a rotating basis
- \$35,000 had just been spent to replace four treadmills and one stepper
- They send a survey to the students and try to take action on recommendations
- They are limited on space due to location of the Fitness Center
- To make more space for students, the varsity athletes do not use the Fitness Center
- It is open 18 hours a day
- The Fitness Manager is good at taking considerations and ideas and putting them forward
- They review their budget yearly
- The Dance Studio can be scheduled by student organizations
 - Go through the SDC Office to reserve
- If there were to be an expansion to the SDC, the Fitness Center would probably re-locate to another area

Experience Tech Fee – Jimmie and Carley

At the last meeting Jimmie and Carley had offered to ask their constituents if they were aware of all that was available to the students because of the Tech Experience Fee.

Jimmie reported at the USG meeting all the students present all were aware. He had a past survey that had had 1,200 respondents and 96% had heard of the Tech Experience Fee and 52% were very satisfied with it.

At her meeting, Carley reported all of the people present utilized it and felt it was worth keeping and it was a good feature to have on campus.

December Meeting

Lynda reported that traditionally the December meeting was canceled because of student's busy schedules at the end of the semester. After discussion, it was decided that since there is not anything pressing, the meeting will be canceled.

Congratulations if you are graduating and remember to let Lynda (lheinone@mtu.edu) know if you are graduating so she can take your name off the roster.

2019 Spring Meeting Dates

In January, Lynda will add the spring meetings to the Student Commission members' calendars.

- Thursday, January 24, 2019, MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, February 14, 2019, MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, February 28, 2019, MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, March 28, 2019, MUB, Superior Room
- Thursday, April 11, 2019, MUB, Ballroom B2&B3
- Thursday, April 25, 2018, MUB, Ballroom A1