

**Student Commission Meeting  
Thursday, October 24, 2013**

**Present: Dan Bennett, Abhishek Bhavalkar, Chris Cena, Les Cook, Jennifer Fuller, Lynda Heinonen, Mike Johnson, Steve Knudstrup, Josh Krugh, Rachel Morrison, Dave Nordstrom, Margo O'Brien, Kathy Pintar, Brenda Rudiger, Kerri Sleeman, Steven Steinhoff, Tim Ward, Chris Wojick**

**Guest: Angie Kolehmainen, Manager, Transportation Service, and Resources**

**Welcome – Chris**

**Facilities Management Update – Angie and Kerri**

Angie Kohehmainen distributed Facilities Management handouts that included:

- 2013-14 Traffic and Parking Regulations
- Free MTU Campus Shuttle Schedule
- Zipcars FAQ/Info Sheet (2)
- Winter Campus Overnight Parking
- Shuttle Schedule/Houghton Public Transit Demand Service/Call for A Ride/Demand Service/Hancock Public Transit handouts
- [www.myschoolbuilding.com](http://www.myschoolbuilding.com)

Angie and Kerri asked the committee if they had any questions or comments regarding Facilities Management. They included:

**Would it be possible to add two shuttle runs to Hancock?**

Kerri commented that this will have to be discussed with GSG to determine if there is enough demand to warrant adding additional runs to the schedule.

**In the morning the city bus only stops at one shelter and not all of the bus stops**

Angie will contact the City of Houghton to discuss.

**Are the Zipcar cards being used?**

Angie reported the following:

- The University has two Zipcars
  - One is parked at the MUB and one is at Wadsworth Hall
- Zipcar requires a certain level of usage before the University does not have to subsidize
  - There have been two months where the University has not had to subsidize
- There was a slight increase in usage when the weather got colder
- The cost of renting a Zipcar is a \$25.00 membership fee and then \$7.50 per hour

Angie asked for comments/questions regarding the Zipcars. They included:

- A graduate student present had used a Zipcar
- Does the University have to have two cars? Is it possible to have just one on campus?
- A student who lives in Wadsworth Hall commented that they have not noticed anybody using the car parked there
- A student reported that Zipcar has a referral program. If you rent a Zipcar and then refer it to a friend and they rent the Zipcar both of you will receive \$25.00 towards your next rental (Angie commented she will promote this in Tech Today and the Lode).

#### **Are students using Maintenance Direct?**

Angie reported students living in Michigan Tech housing are the ones that are mostly using the on-line service but they have had an increase on reporting of small issues in the halls and buildings (need paper toweling/soap/etc. in a restroom).

#### **Is it possible to improve lighting between the Great Lakes Resource Center and Lot 34?**

Kerri commented that Facilities Management is looking into this and if the weather cooperates they may be able to have additional lighting put into place.

#### **The McNair rail is great!**

#### **Is the shuttle being used by students and staff?**

Angie reported the shuttle is being used a lot by Daniell Heights residents. The staff usage is smaller.

#### **The new sidewalk from Facilities Management makes walking in that area much easier and safer.**

#### **How is the new tobacco-free policy on campus going?**

Kerri reported that are problem areas on campus (cigarette butts on the ground) and they will need to continue to educate the students, staff, and faculty about the new policy. Kerri also reported that with winter coming they are pulling the sidewalk stickers off for safety reasons.

It was commented that people do not know where University property begins and ends and could the University put up signs indicating this. It was also questioned if maps were given out at the smoking cessation classes.

It was commented that it will take awhile for people to adjust to the new policy.

It was commented that the number of spittoons in some building has decreased while others has stayed about the same.

## **New**

### **Digital Video Recorders – Dan**

Dan reported that all of his Public Safety officers are wearing a digital video recorder. The officers will turn them on for any incident that they feel may be controversial. He reported that so far they have only been used a couple of times. It was questioned if a person has to be alerted that the officers will be recording them. Dan said the officers do not have to let the person know. He commented that Public Safety has very strict regulations about releasing the videos. He said they can be obtained through the Freedom of Information Act or to a Defense attorney. It was questioned if anybody is watching the video (IT staff) while the officers are recording and Dan reported that the recorders they have do not have that capability.

## **Updates**

### **Input on Library Project**

Lynda reported that Ellen was unable to attend this meeting but was looking for feedback on the new library project. Comments included:

- Students are ecstatic
- Library is very busy
- A lot of people attended the grand opening
- At the front of the Library there is a electronic display that's shows where computers are available for use
- Furniture in basement looks good

Concerns included:

- More traffic in Library
- The noise at times is excessive
- Hard to study
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is the quiet study area
- Will it be hard to find a quiet study area during finals weeks?
  - Can the quiet areas during finals be expanded?
- Personal computers don't have "senior design" software – is it possible to have computers in student's home labs? It was commented that would be up to the department
- When students are working on projects together they are not always seated next to each other so they are talking over other students
- Could there be segregated areas for majors?
- Some lack of communication

### **Textbook Option in Banweb – Chris**

Chris explained the idea was for students to be able to look on-line if a faculty was requiring a hard or digital copy of a textbook. Chris reported that the Provost referred him to Mike Meyer, Director, Center for Teaching and Learning. He learned that the Campus Bookstore is hoping to make this an option for the fall of 2014.

**Safe House- Steve**

Steve reported that SafeHouse is taking place on Saturday, October 26 from 3:30-6:00 pm. There are “scary” and “fun” options. Steve also reported that they still need judges and to contact him directly if you are interested [stknudst@mtu.edu](mailto:stknudst@mtu.edu).

**Michigan Tech Home Page – Les**

Les reported Michigan Tech is re-designing the home page and they are looking for faculty, staff, and students to participate in a web page usability study. Please contact Brand Tichonoff ([btichonoff@mtu.edu](mailto:btichonoff@mtu.edu)) if you are interested in participating.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2013, at 2:00 pm in Alumni Lounge A, MUB.