

Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 28, 2013

Present: Chad Arney, Alex Bruns, Les Cook, Lynda Heinonen, Judy Klutts, Shreya Kumar, Margaret Landsparger, Carol Makkonen, Zachary Mauerman, Rachel Morrison, Dave Nordstrom, Margo O'Brien, Travis Pierce, Lee Presley, Kerri Sleeman, Sarah Stoolmiller, Tim Ward, Renee Wells, Chris Wojick, Jen Zarzecki

Welcome – Shreya

Water Bottle Filling Stations – Les

Les commented that the water bottle filling stations idea originated from the Student Commission and thanked George and Facilities Management for funding, installing, and promoting in Tech Today. Locations include:

- Administration and Student Services Building
- Chemical Sciences and Engineering Building
- Dow Environmental Sciences and Engineering Building
- Fisher Hall
- Harold Meese Center
- Memorial Union Building
- Rekhi Hall
- R. L. Smith Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics Building
- Van Pelt and Opie Library
- Walker Arts and Humanities Center

George commented that while Facilities Management may not always have the funding for large projects the water bottle filling stations are a good example of smaller projects that they were able to implement. If students, faculty, staff have any project suggestions forward them to gjbutvil@mtu.edu.

Guests – George Butvilas, Interim Director and Carol Belanger, Manager, Finance and Purchasing from Facilities Management

Transportation Services Issues

George thanked the committee for the opportunity to address the group and suggested if anybody had concerns, questions, or suggestions to email him at gjbutvil@mtu.edu.

George distributed a handout that included information on parking data and he reported the following:

- Commuter parking causes approximately 80% of the parking problems on campus and they are looking for ways to alleviate this.
- Transportation Services had hoped the shuttle service would have been utilized more by the commuter students than it has.

- Meters will all be changed to allow for up to eight hours of parking (in the past the maximum was two hours).
- Transportation Services does not want to use the Boot but they have begun to tow cars.
- Examples of why cars are being towed include:
 - Parking in handicap spaces
 - Parking in service vehicle spaces
 - Parking in ZipCar spaces
 - Vehicles that are not registered
- A major maintenance project on gates (except Lots 10 and 27) will begin on April 8.
 - Parking will still be enforced Monday through Friday even though gates will be up.
 - Signage will be posted by gates to alert individuals to this.
- Lot 27 will continue to be a pay lot.
- The Lot 11 (a guaranteed parking lot) gate will remain down the entire week. The gate will open late Friday afternoon and go down on Sunday afternoon.
- Shuttle service will be extended to the Lakeshore Center on April 8.
- Facilities Management will be putting a handrail system up between Wadsworth Hall and McNair.

New in 2013-14

- Students will have window stickers.
 - These stickers will have a bar code that will be scanned.
- Payment of tickets will be able to be done online.
- Appeals will be able to be done online.
 - George recommended that if students receive a parking ticket and are not chronic offenders they should appeal the ticket if they have a legitimate excuse.
- RFID access to lots rather than the swipe cards.
- A website that shows exactly where the shuttle and City of Houghton buses are in the City of Houghton. It will refresh every 10 seconds.
- A pilot program will be in place – cars will have a “brown” button on the driver’s side and when they pull up to the gate it will be read.
 - Will snow and ice affect this capability?

Questions included:

- **What is a cash key?** It is a key that can be loaded at Transportation Services with a set dollar amount and used at the parking meters. It alleviates the need to use quarters.
- **Is the message “loud and clear” that cars will be towed? Do students need to be made aware of this?** George recommended that this be communicated to the students. Les volunteered to include this information in an email to the students.

- **It was questioned if the University was looking into the idea of programmable gates.** George commented that cost is prohibitive (\$100,000-\$125,000) and the idea of not having gates has been discussed. If there were not gates the monitoring would have to be very stringent.
- **Would the shuttle be able to stop at the Forestry Building?** This will be reviewed.
- **If meters are not accessible due to snow banks will individuals get a ticket?** George commented that if an individual gets a ticket in this situation they should appeal the ticket.

Comments included:

- **The University should use a tiered violation system because a lot of students don't mind paying \$10.00 a day to park.** George thought this was an excellent suggestion and will review it for next year. He also commented that currently after four tickets the University has a right to tow a vehicle.
- **It was suggested that there be golf carts on campus for students to use.**
- **It is hard to find a spot in Lot 34 between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and Noon.**
- **There are not enough shuttles to labs in Hancock and the softball fields.** George commented that Michigan Tech needs to work with the City of Houghton to utilize their bus service better rather than more Tech shuttle stops.
- **Graduate lots are too far from the MEEM.**
- **In the winter the bus stop by the MUB gets very icy/slippery.** George will discuss with grounds.

ZipCars

George distributed and reviewed key metrics of the ZipCar Data. He reported that there is a liability of \$3,400 a month for the ZipCars to be on campus. Once the revenue has exceeded this amount for three months there is no longer a charge to the University.

Suggestions included:

- Promote to first-year students so they know they are available
- Place ZipCars closer to the residence halls

George reiterated again that if students have questions, concerns, or suggestions to email gjbutvil@mtu.edu, Travis Pierce (tlp.@mtu.edu), or Les Cook (lpcook@mtu.edu).

Undergraduate Student Government – Jen

Jen reported that she will be acting as both President and Vice President for the Undergraduate Student Government.

Promotion of Student Commission – Les

Les reported that the Student Commission continues to look for ways to promote this committee as a voice for students. Les also reported that he is waiting for the Lode to contact him.

Emergency or Supplemental Health Care Fund for Students – Les

Les reported that he contacted the Financial Aid Office and they do not have an emergency or supplemental health care fund for students but rather they have some funding for emergencies and they are reviewed on a case by case basis. It was questioned as to how students would have access to this funding. Les commented that the Dean of Students Office is typically the point of contact for most students with these types of issues.

Student Community Garden – Alex

Alex reported that he has been working with Facilities, Grounds, Dining, the Master Gardener, Sustainable Futures Institute (SFI), and Dr. Robert Handler to make this project a reality.

Alex reported the following:

- ¼ acre lot by Wadsworth Hall
- Garden won't be truly organic
- They will use raised garden beds/cedar planks
- The garden will have distinct boundaries
- The germination process will begin in an indoor green house
- Project will begin outside when Mother Nature cooperates

Alex reported that Dr. Handler has students lined up to work on this project in the summer but if students would like to volunteer to work on the gardens they can contact Alex at (apbruns@mtu.edu) and he will collect names. Alex also commented that the gardens in Daniell Heights need work.

Lightening Cable – Chad

Chad reported that there are three device charging stations on the first floor of the Library. He also reported that because Apple does not license their lightening connectors, Michigan Tech was unable to purchase stations that had iPhone 5 connectors. The Library now has two cables that are available for check out at the circulation desks. These can be used at the cell phone charger stations or with your laptop or other USB powered devices.

Computer Printing Lab in Residence Halls – Margaret

Margaret reported that printers for the Residence Halls have been identified and maintenance has been done on them so they will function well. They are currently with the Facilities group having locks placed on them so they will be secure. IT is in the process of also identifying where they will be located and installing jacks. These will be ready for use in the fall of 2013.

Tobacco Free Campus – Travis

Travis reported the following:

- Provided two different information sessions
 - Faculty and Staff
 - Students
- There will be a cessation class in April
- Working on signage
- Looking at how to communicate that the University will be tobacco free on September 3

It was questioned how the tobacco free initiative will be regulated. Travis commented that individuals will self regulate and if there are chronic abuses it could become a student conduct issue or an employee issue.

New

Plateau Tuition – Rachel

Rachel commented that the Plateau tuition that is being implemented in the fall does not benefit seniors at all. Les commented that they are aware of this problem and a group is meeting to discuss ways to assist students (seniors, ESL students, student teachers) who will be affected by this.

Changes in Husky Motors – Les

Les suggested there are some changes regarding vehicle rentals on campus and that Husky Motors could be an agenda item for the fall of 2013.

Parking Lot Occupancy App – Zachary

Zachary reported that this will probably not happen because the data they need does not exist on campus.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Wads G17/19. Snacks will be provided.