

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, October 25, 2012**

Present: Andre Bonen, Kevin Cassell, Lynda Heinonen, Margaret Landsparger, Chad Larson, Dave Nordstrom, Donnie Palmer, Kathy Pintar, Hamed Pouryousef, Chris Wojick

Welcome – Donnie

Presentation – University Women’s Student Commission, Beth Lunde, Assistant Vice President for Student Life

**Michigan Technological University
Women’s Student Commission
Proposal Plan**

Background:

Michigan Technological University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. HLC accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central region. Since 1928, Michigan Tech has continuously been accredited.

In 2005, Michigan Tech was accepted into the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP), an alternative evaluation process for organizations already accredited by the Commission. As a result these AQIP Action Plans are completed annually.

Action Project:

One of the AQIP 2011-2012 Action Projects was designed to increase gender diversity of faculty and students. A subcommittee, Action Project 5, was convened to improve processes for advising and mentoring female students.

One of the recommendations from the committee was to begin a University Women’s Student Commission.

This recommendation was a result of discussion surrounding one of the Michigan Tech Student Satisfaction Survey responses. In 2010, one of the lowest rated satisfaction areas for women was their ability to provide input in University policy and procedure - only 65% of both graduate and undergraduate women felt they had a voice in University decisions. Clearly, this indicates that women would like to have an increased voice in policies and procedures. Developing the Women’s Student Commission would increase satisfaction and will enable female students’ to be a part of the conversation and, most importantly part of the solution.

Our proposal is that this commission would serve as a subcommittee to the current University’s Student Commission. It would be a place for women to bring issues/concerns that need discussion and/or implementation, which are policy, procedure, program, or service based.

Implementation Plan:

The Women's Student Commission subcommittee will be lead by a member of the University Student Commission. The committee should also have representatives from several women's organizations and the Assistant Director from the Center for Diversity and Inclusion who works with women's programming and services. These representative should also include a member of Undergraduate Student Government, Graduate Student Government, and Inter-Residence Housing Council.

The Women's Student Commission subcommittee will be conducted in a similar manner to the University Student Commission. The meetings will be held twice a semester.

The meetings will be conducted as follows: Each meeting will begin with the commission providing an introduction of all members who serve on the subcommittee and will review the Women's Student Commission goal of "serving as a place for women to bring issues/concerns that need discussion and/or implementation, which are policy, procedure, program or service based." Following this will be a call for items to discuss, and then discussion. If needed, issues with be assigned to subcommittee members to research the issues and bring them back for further discussion and resolution. Also if needed, there will be a follow up meeting with the women serving on the commission to address any problems and work to solve issues/concerns or questions that came up.

The Women's Student Commission subcommittee should also host an online forum. The online forum will serve as a place for women to do the same as they would during an open forum, submitting issues/concerns that need discussion and/or implementation. This forum will be located both on the Women's Programming page and on the Student Commission page.

The Women's Programming webpage (<http://www.diversitycenter.mtu.edu/programs-womens-events.php>) will also link to the University Student Commission "make a suggestion" form so women may submit comments. However we do recommend that this "make a suggestion" tab be more centrally located on the Student Commission page and be changed to "submit a question, suggestion, or concern." Currently this is very hard to find.

In order to promote the Women's Student Commission subcommittee, members from all women organizations will be asked to promote this in their meetings. The organizations will be asked to record concerns/comments that come up and send them to the commission.

This will be advertised through the webpage and through the Women's Programming calendar. There will also be publications developed to be placed throughout campus. Also an email will be sent out to all women students on campus informing them of this commission and encouraging them to send in their concerns.

Beth reviewed the proposal and asked for questions/suggestions from the Student Commission members. They included:

- Were men surveyed? *Yes, but women's survey results were lower than the mens*
- How many filled out survey? *Approximately 1,400 undergrad and 300 graduate*
- In response to the comment that the Student Commission website was hard to find

- Lynda will discuss with Jeremiah Baumann
- GSG President will provide link to graduate students
- How is this different than Women’s Leadership Council? *WLC is a student organization and if this is part of a university committee it won’t get lost.*
- Email comment –
 - We need to make sure Student Commission thinks women face significantly different issues, and that it would be successful.
- Email comment –
 - In order for the subcommittee/Women's Student Commission to be a part of the conversation and solution the subcommittee has to report back through the Student Commission so that at each SC meeting the Women's SC would have an agenda line. -- It seems obvious but maybe it should be added just before the last paragraph as part of the protocol.
 - Add issues/concerns and /feedback (some discussion items might be good things that are happening that need to be enhanced or just continued)
 - Are there other subcommittees to the SC? Is this consistent with the way they function? Is this maybe a Standing Committee instead of a subcommittee--not sure if there is a difference.

Beth reported/commented on the following:

- Many of the issues that need to be resolved affect men and women but at times women’s issues come up and this would be a new venue to resolve them.
- Beth’s intern would help with promotional material and help get the word out to women’s groups.
- Les steered Beth and the intern to the Student Commission and she thought it seems like a perfect place to collaborate and act as one rather than separate bodies.
- Student Commission would decide structure of this sub-committee and the chair.
- Beth needs for the Student Commission to approve the committee and that they want to put this Standing Committee in place.

After discussion, it was decided that this will be brought up again for discussion at the November 8th meeting. If it is approved it can be implemented for the spring semester.

It was commented that the Student Commission needs to get the word out that they are a place to bring issues that need resolution. Beth commented that her intern could work on publicity that would tie the Student Commission in with the Women’s Standing Committee.

Beth thanked the group and if anybody had any additional questions/comments to email her at blunde@mtu.edu.

New Items

Upkeep of Disc Golf Course – Kevin

Kevin reported that he has received a number of complaints regarding the upkeep of the disc golf course. It was reported to him that there is a lot of trash on the course.

Dave reported that he has contacted Craig Pellizzaro and he will look into this issue. Dave reported that they are looking to improve the course next year.

It was questioned if this could be a “Make a Difference” project. Donnie will contact Rachel Wussow to discuss.

Shuttle Service

A student present had a number of questions/comments. They included:

- The schedule has changed and there is confusion as to when the shuttle runs.
- Would Transportation Services be able to print a schedule and post at Daniell Heights and also email this information to the residents?
- There are a lot of vans that drive up to Daniell Heights and they all look the same – could a sign on the hood or top of vehicle be placed on the vans?
- The shuttle that is larger moves slowly but the vans move a bit faster
- Is the bus still running from Daniell Heights to downtown Houghton and Wal-mart?

Other questions/comments included:

- How many stops are there at Daniell Heights?
- How many people gather at one spot?
- Could the shuttles be a different color or have a light on top that would distinguish them? Or run the same color van for the shuttle.
- Michigan Tech has a mobile website – put a link on there that has the shuttle service
- Shuttle has lost consistency – need to keep on schedule.

Lynda distributed the weekly Husky Motors Shuttle Service usage that Transportation Services had forwarded. Comments/questions included:

- It was questioned if these numbers would change once faculty and staff have to pay to parking?
- Utilization doesn't seem that high
- Usage will probably increase in the winter
- Are more people parking in lots 23 and 24?

After lengthy discussion, it was decided that the Student Commission had more questions than answers so Lynda will invite Pete Pelissero, Manager, Husky Motors to the November 8th meeting for further discussion. Lynda will also forward these comments on to Pete and carbon copy George Butvilas.

Updates

Punch Card/Tech Express Card - Margaret

At the previous Student Commission meeting, it was questioned if the Tech Express card could be programmed to be a person's punch card (smoothie, sandwich, coffee card, etc.). Margaret volunteered to research this idea. Margaret reported that she spoke with ITSS and they are looking into this idea and she will report back in January. She also reported some “neat” features that could be available. They include:

- System could email a person coupons
- System could email you reminders
- Run special notices

Promotion of Student Commission – Donnie

Donnie reported that due to illness he was unable to meet with the various student groups. He is in the process of re-scheduling these meetings.

Donnie reported that he will contact Beth Lunde's intern to work on the Facebook page. He will also review the Student Concerns page and will pull issues from there and bring them to the next Student Commission meeting for discussion.

Bicycle Friendly Campus – Chris

Chris reported that he passed the information on to the student enterprise. He will check on their progress and report back.

Water Bottle Filling Stations – Andre

Andre reported that due to the expense (\$6,000) there will not be a water bottle filling station in Fisher Hall but rather one will be added on the first floor in the MUB and the Chemical Sciences Building.

It was questioned as to why there was no longer a water fountain on the MUB's first floor. Andrew will look into this and report back.

It was suggested that the water bottle filling stations be promoted in Tech Today, the Lode, and the Daily Bull. It was also suggested that they be made more noticeable so they attract people's attention.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 8 in the Alumni Lounge A, MUB at 2:00 p.m.