

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2014**

Present: Dan Bennett, Chris Cena, Autumn Chaney, Les Cook, Lynda Heinonen, Judy Klutts, Dan LaForest, Zachary Mauerman, Mary Mongeau, Rachel Morrison, Dave Nordstrom, Margo O'Brien, Travis Pierce, Jon Riehl, Steven Steinhoff, Matthew Watrous, Chris Wojick

Welcome – Les

**Guest: Kurt Smith, Director, Telecommunications Services
Blue Light Stanchion Phones**

Kurt was invited to attend the Student Commission meeting to discuss the blue light stanchion phones.

Kurt reported approximately three years ago a committee led by Brenda Helminen had been formed to discuss upgrading the blue light phone system on campus. Companies (Talk-a-Phone and Talk Blue) were invited to campus to demonstrate their products. Systems included phones that could be used for emergency contact, mass communications, and had video/audio capabilities. Kurt reported the project was moving forward until Brenda retired and at that point it fizzled. He also reported that Brian Cadwell had conducted a study during the 2009-10 academic school year. At that time, it was estimated to cost \$53,000-\$100,000 to implement a system on campus.

Kurt reported currently there is no consistency to the blue light phones on campus. He commented that Public Safety has to manually check to determine if phones are working and then report to IT if they are not. He did comment that they are definitely checked on a routine basis to ensure they are in operating condition.

He said IT would be happy to determine costs associated in setting up a new system. He asked for comments from the Student Commission. They included:

- Funding has to come from somewhere
- Nobody will volunteer to pay for this project unless a proposal is put forth requesting funding
- Cell phones have taken over – is this necessary?
- Shouldn't we be proactive?
- How does Michigan Tech want to present ourselves?
- To save money could the current system be updated rather than purchasing fancy new phones?
- The 25 current locations will have to be reviewed to determine if they are all needed, are in the best location, or if more need to be added

- They may never be used but good to have in place “just in case”
 - Fire extinguishers
 - Seat belts
 - Defibrillators
- Vendors have claimed that grant money is available to purchase systems
- These systems can be more accessible than cell phones to alert Public Safety
- Sets a good public relations message
 - Provides a good visual safety message
- Safety Ratings – Blue Light Phones are part of the equation
- Products have really developed in the last three years

After discussion, it was decided to form a sub-committee that will look further into upgrading the current system. Members include: Kurt Smith, Jon Riehl, Dan Bennett, Chris Cena, Judy Klutts, and Rachel Morrison.

First steps include:

- Chris will forward Brian Cadwell’s 2009-10 study to Student Commission members
- The numbers in the study will have to be updated
- Lynda volunteered to setup a meeting for the committee to meet
 - Chris will contact Lynda to determine when meeting (s) should take place

Fire Alarms/Mass Communications – Kurt

Kurt also reported that approximately ten buildings on campus have new fire alarm systems that include a means for mass communication.

Update on Library Project – Mary

Mary reported that the Library received complaints from the graduate students that they were closed from 8:00 pm – 8:00 pm on the Wednesday night (February 5) of Winter Carnival. She asked for input from the Student Commission. Comments included:

- If the Library is considered essential personnel why would you close at Winter Carnival?
- You don’t want to be open because of what goes on
- There are other places to study
- Open just the Reading Room
 - Swipe access
 - Have Safety Team on-site
- Public Safety is spread thin during Winter Carnival how long would it take them to respond if there was an incident at the Library?

It was commented that there were not any graduate students present at today’s meeting and it would be beneficial to get their input. Lynda will ask Shreya to solicit feedback from the graduate students and report back at the next meeting.

It was also suggested that the Library could communicate hours with the graduate students or a Library representative could attend a GSG meeting to discuss.

Mary also reported hours during Winter Carnival (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings) were extended from 8:00 pm to midnight. The Reading Room is open 24/7 except for the Wednesday of Winter Carnival (closed between 8:00 pm – 8:00 am). She suggested that students review their website <http://www.mtu.edu/library/> under Hours and Exceptions & Holidays.

Library Food Policy - Mary

Mary reported that starting next week a new food policy will be put into place. The following changes are:

- Food will be restricted to the café area and first floor (cannot be eaten at the computers)
- Food is allowed in the group study rooms
- Covered beverages are allowed anywhere in the Library

Tobacco Free Campus – Les

Les commented that another reminder should be sent that Michigan Tech is a tobacco free campus. Suggestions included:

- Les' email
- Tech Today
- The Lode
- Sandwich boards

Michigan Tech App

It was questioned if the Michigan Tech app could include what computers are open in the Library. Chris volunteered to contact Jarrod Karau to discuss.

It was reported that the Dining Hall menus are not working on the Michigan Tech app. Judy will contact Jarrod Karau to discuss.

Next Meeting

The next Student Commission is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. in the MUB Alumni Lounge.