

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 10, 2015**

Present: Donna Beels, Les Cook, Lynda Heinonen, Judy Klutts, Mary Mongeau, Chelsea Nikula, Kathy Pintar, Brenda Rudiger, Travis Pierce, Abbey Senczysyn

Welcome – Les

Les welcomed the members to the first meeting of the 2015-16 academic year. He reported that William Lytle (GSG) and Darien Benner (USG) are the Vice Presidents for their respective organizations and will be the Student Commission co-chairs for the upcoming year.

New Items

Library Food and Drink Policy – Mary

Mary reported the Library has a new Food and Drink Policy. It is as follows:

- Covered beverages are allowed throughout the Library
- Food is permitted only on the first floor but not at the computer workstations. No exceptions can be made.

The primary reason for this policy is that there is no equitable way for students or staff to decide what types of food is tolerable by all library users. It has been impossible to keep the facility clean and students have complained about this as well. Food is permitted in all IT managed open labs on campus and in the Keweenaw Commons (MUB lower level). Deliveries by off-campus vendors can be made there as well.

Mary will report how the new policy is going at the next meeting.

Pedestrian Signs – Les

Les reported that MDOT does not allow signage on Highway 41 and questioned if students could petition the State to allow this.

Dining Hall Meal Swipes – Les

Les reported that he has heard complaints that the new configuration (a wall in Wads Dining area) has caused congestion. IDs are being swiped on only one side. There are two lines but the process is slowed down because students have to decide which one to select. It was suggested that a stanchion be set up.

Travis reported he is meeting with the new Dining Director and will report back at the next meeting.

Parking – Les

Les reported that there were a number of complaints regarding the long lines at Transportation Services on the first couple days of classes. He commented that there has to be a more efficient way to handle this. It was suggested that for those first few days of classes Transportation Services move into a central location.

Lynda reported that Angie Kolehmainen is scheduled to be at the next meeting and she can address this topic.

Six Sigma Course - Abbey

Abbey reported that there is a Six Sigma class on campus that looks to analyze issues on campus, streamline the process, and make it more efficient. She questioned if the Dining Hall card swipes and Transportation Services could be reviewed by this class.

After discussion, it was decided that the Student Commission will wait to hear back from Transportation Services and Dining Services before moving forward with the Six Sigma suggestion.

Hot Water/Heat Issues – Travis

Travis reported they have had a few issues with Hot Water and Heat in the Residence Halls. They are meeting with Facilities to resolve issues and they also communicate with the residents that it involves.

Renovations – Travis

Renovations at Daniell Heights will be starting soon and a schedule will be published.

Water Bottle Filling Stations – Chelsea

Chelsea reported that she was questioned if there was a water-bottle filling station in the EERC Building. She commented that it is on the list of buildings as having one but the person who inquired about it could not locate it. Lynda will contact Facilities to confirm if there is one in the building or not.

Food Insecurities – Les

Les reported the Food Pantry is open and well stocked.

<http://www.mtu.edu/huskyfan/about/pantry/> It is located in the CDI basement (Hamar House). He also reported that Public Safety has emergency food packs available if students need them. People are able to make donations to the Annual Fund Campaign if they choose to do so.

Enrollment Numbers – Les

Fall 2015 enrollment at Michigan Technological University is 7,238, the highest the school has seen in more than 30 years. Female enrollment is at a record high, with women making up 26.9 percent of the student body.

First to second year retention – the number of first year students who return for their second year – reached a record 87 percent.

Michigan Tech's Graduate School also reported record growth for the seventh year in a row. Graduate enrollment now stands at 1,521, the largest number of graduate students in the University's history.

Dining Halls - Travis

Travis commended Dining Services for becoming more student-centered. It includes, labeling food, international foods have been expanded, action stations have been created, sushi, rotisserie, etc.

Meetings

Even though there have not been a lot of agenda items lately, it was decided to continue to hold the meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. There was concern if the meetings were held monthly, items may slip through the cracks. It was suggested that if there are no agenda items, meetings can then be canceled.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24 at 2:00 pm in Ballroom B2 & B3, Memorial Union Building.