

**Student Commission Meeting  
Thursday, September 11, 2104**

**Present: Les Cook, Lynda Heinonen, Joseph Heltsley, Mike Johnson, Jarrod Karau, Judy Klutts, Carol Makkonen, Marco La Manna, Zachary Mauerman, Mary Mongeau, Dave Nordstrom, Margo O'Brien, Kathy Pintar, Jacqueline Spitzack, Steven Steinhoff, Chris Wojick**

**Welcome and Introductions – Les, Steven, and Marco**

Les welcomed the group and gave a brief summary of the preliminary enrollment numbers.

- Fall enrollment is at 7,100 students, up 124 over last fall and the second highest it's been since 1983.
- Retention is at 85% which is the highest this century and also the second highest it's ever been
- ACT composite is the highest it has ever been at 27

Les thanked the committee for all they do and commented that it is because of them in part that the numbers are a success.

**New Items**

**Student Satisfaction Survey**

Les reported that the committee members should have received the link to the Student Satisfaction Survey longitudinal data.

**Updates** <http://www.mtu.edu/student-affairs/administration/vp/committees/assessment/inter-national/student-satisfaction/Student%20Satisfaction%20Survey.html>

He asked them to take some time to review and if committee members are interested in hearing more on the data, Susan Liebau, Director, Waino Wahtera Center for Student Success can be invited to an upcoming Student Commission meeting.

Les reported that the data shared does not include the student's comments and suggested a sub-committee be put together to review the comments and bring back any issues that they think the Student Commission may want to discuss further.

Graduate Student sub-committee members include:

- Marco LaManna
- Jacq Spitzack

Undergraduate Student Sub-committee members include:

- Steve Steinhoff
- Zachary Mauerman
- Mary Mongeau
- Jacq Spitzack

Lynda will work on getting the comments to the committees.

### **Food Insecurities – Lynda**

Lynda reported that the Dean of Students asked to have this item on the agenda. Over the last year, it has come to her attention that some students do not have enough food to eat and she has distributed a number of Dining Hall meal cards and gift cards (Econo Food and Jim’s Food Mart) to students in need. She wanted to get a sense from the Student Commission if this was a problem on campus or if these are isolated incidents.

Steven volunteered to pose the question “Are there students going hungry at Michigan Tech?” to USG and he will report back

Food banks available to students in the Copper Country include; St. Vincent DePaul (Hancock), Salvation Army (Hancock), and Angel Mission Free Store (Calumet).

### **Updates**

#### **Laptop Program – Jarrod**

Jarrod reported that he thought the laptop program is currently tabled.

#### **Blue Light Stanchion Phones**

Lynda reported that Jon has a class this semester so she did not have an update on the phones. Zach volunteered to get information and report at the next meeting.

#### **E-Cigarettes Proposal – Les**

This was reported at the April 10<sup>th</sup> Student Commission meeting. *Jon reported he is working on amending the existing policy, Board of Control Policy 12.2.1 to read:*

*All tobacco use as well as use of electronic cigarettes is prohibited except where approval is granted by the Vice President for Administration.*

Les reported that the Executive Team has discussed the e-cigarettes issues and they have asked the University Senate, USG, GSG, and Staff Council to respond to the question “Do you think e-cigarettes should be banned from the Michigan Tech campus?”

Steven commented that he is opposed to the ban. He does not think they should be used inside of buildings but didn’t see any grounds to ban the use of them outside.

Les commented that most campuses that have banned cigarettes have also banned e-cigarettes.

Chris commented that to get an un-biased survey the Social Sciences department could be contacted to compose survey questions.

#### **Inclement Weather – Specific Guidelines and Communications**

This was reported at the April 10<sup>th</sup> Student Commission meeting. *Jon reported he is working a new proposal. It reads:*

*Any closure of Michigan Technological University shall be declared a minimum of two-hours before the closure period through the Michigan Tech Safety First Alert system. This minimum notice does not apply to emergency closures including, but not limited to, bomb threats and shootings.*

*Les had commented at the meeting that he would not recommend that a specific policy be put into place but rather develop specific guidelines and then do a better job of communicating with students, faculty, and staff. He will discuss this with the Executive Team this summer.*

Currently the Weather Closure Policy reads as such - The president, provost and vice president for academic affairs, or their designated representative may decide to close the University for a specified period of time (examples might include but are not limited to prolonged power outage, prolonged loss of heating capability, or closure of main highway due to inclement weather). Notification will be through Safety First Alert, the University web site, and local media. Faculty and students will be excused from reporting to class.

It was questioned if this should be developed to include specific guidelines. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

#### **Other**

##### **Carpooling Data – Chris**

Chris reported that he has data that indicates that commuter students are interested in carpooling to campus. He will share with the committee and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

##### **Portage Lake Lift Bridge Project – Les**

Les reported that Travis Pierce, Director, Housing and Residential Life is the Michigan Tech liaison for the Portage Lake Lift Bridge Project. Travis is the point person and will be responsible for getting the information out to campus. Les reported that there will be two extended night closures, 16 closures that will be two hours in duration, and 200 short closures

It was questioned if there are plans in place for emergencies and Les reported that MDOT is working with emergency services (Portage and Aspirius) to develop a plan. Les reported that during the entire bridge project there will be a helicopter on-site to be used as necessary.

##### **Library Hours – Carol**

Carol reported that the Library has responded to the student's request to have the Library open 24/7 the week prior to exams.

##### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2014, at 2:00 pm in the MUB, Alumni Lounge A.