

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, February 12, 2015**

Present: Donna Beels, Les Cook, Lynda Heinonen, Judy Klutts, Josh Krugh, Marco La Manna, Andrey Merzlyakov, Mary Mongeau, Dave Nordstrom, Margo O'Brien, Jon Riehl, Abbey Senczyszyn

Welcome – Marco and Les

Updates

Facilities Management – Transportation Services

Angie Kolehmainen, Manager Husky Motors, Transportation Services and Resources had been scheduled to give an update at the Student Commission meeting but was unable to attend so she provided the following information that was distributed and reviewed by committee members.

Parking Ticket Process

Day 1 – receive a parking ticket

You have 10 days to appeal the parking ticket at this time.

Day 11 – A hold is put on your student account.

We work with students at any time to temporarily lift account holds. Before this is done, they need to make a payment on their account and a payment arrangement for the remaining balance. Once the student has had enough time to register or drop classes etc., the hold then goes back on the students account until the balance is paid in full. The current system was set based in part by recommendations from the students. If we are to wait until the end of the semester to put a hold on your account, what is the incentive? So, if there is no incentive and the payments don't get made, then it may be necessary to raise the rates to cover lost revenue which effects all, not just the parking violators. This revenue is used to pay for things such as snow removal on campus.

Winter Parking Ban

The winter parking ban is put into effect from November 1 - April 30. The designated spaces were selected by Transportation Services, Grounds and Public Safety with safety and snow removal in mind. The grounds department needs to have all lots cleared by time most of campus arrives. The designated spaces still allow them to do their job and for our customers to continue to work overnight. There are three centrally located parking areas for overnight parking and you can begin parking in these areas at 4:00p.m. Please contact Public Safety and let them know that you are there. You will need to provide your name, phone number and vehicle information. You are free to park in the designated spaces until 6am. At 6a.m., the grounds crew goes through all of the designated overnight parking areas and clears the snow. At 6a.m., if you are finding that you still need to be on campus, you can move your vehicle over to a lot which you are permitted to park in, please park where the snow has already been cleared.

****I just want to note that for every vehicle that is not parked in a designated area, it takes the grounds crew 10 minutes to clear the snow surrounding that vehicle. If we have 5 students parking in their preferred lot, that's almost an hour that the grounds crew is behind with the rest of the campus snow removal. Not only does it take valuable time away from their busy schedule, it also can add additional overtime, which can result in overtime costs that are covered by Transportation Services.***

Comments/questions included:

- Is it a big deal to have restricted parking at night?
 - Public Safety received 0-8 calls a night from students
 - There are plenty of parking spaces but not always so convenient
- If students graduate but still have unpaid parking tickets, their accounts are sent to receivable and if the tickets still remain unpaid, eventually it goes to collections.

Overnight parking during the winter in Houghton was discussed. Les suggested that USG and GSC work with the City of Houghton to come up with a designated parking area for students who do not want to drive home intoxicated but also want to avoid a ticket if they leave their car in town. It was suggested that the lower parking deck would be a good place for students to leave their cars.

Promotion of Student Commission – Marco and Lynda

- Table tents were placed in the MUB, Wads, DHH, and McNair on February 9
 - Lynda will put them out again on March 23
- The following information was sent to the Student Newsbrief on February 6 and to Student Org Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries on February 9

STUDENT COMMISSION

Ever notice something about Michigan Tech that could be improved? Have you had a great idea that would have a positive effect on other students?

If yes, you are invited and encouraged to join us at the Student Commission meetings. We look to break down the barriers that impede student's success, and to improve Michigan Tech's campus environment.

You'll get the chance to have your ideas heard by staff, faculty, university officials, and most importantly other students. We work together to act on your idea and make changes. Past accomplishments of the Student Commission include:

- **Library Project** – *The Student Commission received regular updates from Library staff during their 2013-14 project. The Library responded to Student Commission concerns and implemented ideas/suggestions*
- **Transportation Services/Facilities Management Updates** – *Facilities Management is regularly invited to the Student Commission to provide updates, information, and answer any questions the group may have.*
- **Tobacco Free Campus** – *The tobacco free campus policy was instituted in the 2013-14.*
- **Michigan Tech App** – *Improvements (open computers and Dining Hall menus) for the Michigan Tech App have been suggested and completed.*
- **Shuttle Service** – *Collaboration with Facilities Management to improve shuttle service for students*
- **Student Commission Website** – *a website has been created <http://www.mtu.edu/student-affairs/administration/vp/committees/student-commission/>*
- **USG and GSG Chairs** – *The Vice Presidents from USG and GSG will co-chair meetings with the Vice President for Student Affairs*
- **Services in Dining Halls** – *Addressed and resolved issues of services available in dining halls*

- **Sustainability on Campus** – Recycling continues to be improved and expanded on campus
- **Value Statement**
- **Relocation of Broomball Rinks**
- **Designated Memorial Garden**
- **Princess Point Rehab and Upgrade**
- **Experience Tech Fee Initiative**

Anyone is welcome to attend upcoming meetings.

Please check out the Student Commission website for more information. <http://www.mtu.edu/student-affairs/administration/vp/committees/student-commission/>

2015 Spring Meeting Dates

- Thursday, February 12, 2015, 2:00 pm, MUB, Alumni Lounge A
- Thursday, February 26, 2015, 2:00 pm, MUB, Alumni Lounge A
- Thursday, March 26, 2015, 2:00 pm, MUB, Alumni Lounge A
- Thursday, April 9, 2015, 2:00 pm, MUB, Alumni Lounge A
- Thursday, April 23, 2015, 2:00 pm, MUB, Alumni Lounge A

Les volunteered to send this information to the Academic Forum. Jon reported he gives periodic updates to the Senate.

It was questioned if there should be an IRHC rep on Student Commission. Lynda will contact Travis Pierce regarding this.

If committee members have any additional suggestions, please pass them on to Lynda (lheinone@mtu.edu)

Winter Carnival Recap – Les

Comments included:

- 1:00 am was too early to shut off the music
- It was cold
- There seemed to be less one-nighters than in previous years
- The cold weather seemed to cause less people to be out viewing the statues on campus
- The City of Houghton was busy
- They missed not having lights strung over the statues on College Avenue
 - This should be passed on to Blue Key
- Blue Key did a great job of cleaning up campus

Entrepreneurial Support – Josh

Josh reported he spoke to Jim Baker, Executive Director, Innovation & Industry Engagement regarding entrepreneurial support. Jim is pushing for a Center for Entrepreneurship to be housed in the new Honors College. If anybody has questions on entrepreneurial support they should contact Jim Baker at jrbaker@mtu.edu.

New Items

Ombuds Officer Role at Michigan Tech – Jon

Jon reported the Michigan Tech Ombuds Office is a place where any Michigan Tech faculty, staff, or students can go for informal conflict mediation services. The office is independent, neutral, and confidential. The current Michigan Tech Ombuds Officer is Susannah Peters

Student on Ombuds Search Committee – Jon

Jon reported he is drafting a Senate proposal to include a grad and an undergrad student on the Ombuds search committee. This way future searches will allow two student members instead of just the one they had for the previous search.

Suggestions from the Student Commission included the following wording:

- GSG would appoint one person to serve on committee
- USG would appoint one person to serve on committee

Jon reported he will bring the proposal to GSG and USG for their review, then back to the Student Commission (February 26, 2015 meeting), and then to the Senate.

Water Filling Station – Marco

Marco reported that there are students who would be interested in having a water bottle filling station in their building rather than a “simple” water fountain.

When Marco asked Lynda to add this to the agenda, she contacted Facilities Management to find out which building had water bottle stations. Listed below are the ones that do/do not.

Water Bottle Filling Stations

The following buildings currently have ONE installed:

- 1) *Administration Building*
- 2) *Chem Sci*
- 3) *Dow*
- 4) *Fisher Hall*
- 5) *Harold Meese Center*
- 6) *Memorial Union Building*
- 7) *Rekhi Hall*
- 8) *MEEM*
- 9) *Van Pelt and Opie Library*
- 10) *Walker*
- 11) *SDC*
- 12) *EERC*
- 13) *Dillman*
- 14) *Forestry (One is currently being installed)*
- 15) *DHH*
- 16) *McNair*
- 17) *Wadsworth Hall*
- 18) *Hillside Place*

The following buildings that do NOT have water bottle filling stations:

- 1) *Academic Office*
- 2) *ROTC*
- 3) *Hamar House*
- 4) *M&M*
- 5) *Rozsa*
- 6) *Public Safety*
- 7) *OAP*
- 8) *Alumni House*

Les commented that the water bottle filling idea came out of the Student Commission a few years ago and he was pleased to see that so many of the buildings on campus are now equipped with them.

Suggestions on what to do with this information included:

- Article in the Michigan Tech Lode
- Marco will forward information to GSG members
- Whitney Boroski could incorporate in the Wellness Week
- Scavenger Hunt at First-Year Orientation (find the water bottle filling stations)
- The larger student groups could do a promotion

Pedestrian Bridge - Marco

The idea of a pedestrian bridge was brought to Marco's attention. Some students thought that it was more of a safety issue rather than just an inconvenience. Les commented that while there is a plan on the books for a project to link Fisher and Wadsworth Hall, there are a number of other projects ahead of this one.

Cemetery Road Lighting – Marco

Marco reported that students use Cemetery Road when they walk from the SDC to Daniell Heights or vice versa and the road is very dark. Would it be possible to have lighting installed along this road? It was commented that the property belongs to Michigan Tech. Lynda will pass this concern on to Facilities Management.

Parking Lots - #10 and #26 – Abbey

Currently Lot #10 is a residential parking lot and Lot #26 is a commuter lot. Abbey reported that IRHC is soliciting feedback on the idea of swapping these two lots. Les commented that Travis Pierce and Kerri Sleeman should address this issue.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2015, at 2:00 pm in the MUB, Alumni Lounge A.