Student Commission Meeting  
Thursday, September 14, 2017

Present: Jonathan Davey, Marc Geborkoff, Lynda Heinonen, Judy Klutts, Josh Marshall, Carol McCullah, Travis Pierce, Brenda Rudiger, Lori Weir, Sam Willard

Welcome – Josh
Josh welcomed everybody to the first Student Commission meeting of the 2017-18 academic year.

Cigarette Butts on Campus
Lynda reported that Dean Bonnie Gorman had received a complaint regarding cigarette butts around campus and the concern regarding the environmental impact of this. Discussion followed and comments included:

- People don’t think Cliff Drive is part of Michigan Tech so it is littered with butts
- If Michigan Tech were to provide receptacles it would be encouraging smoking
- If signs are placed around campus they are ripped down
- Generally if Police Services speaks to offenders they are generally respectful
- The only time a report has been filed is if smoking has caused a smoke alarm to be activated
- Facilities Management cleans up the butts
- Student Governance could do an education piece at the beginning of the school year
- Cleaning up the butts could be a service project
- Board of Trustees Policy (12.2) reads *Smoking and all tobacco use is prohibited except where approval is granted by the Vice President for Administration*
- The Diversity Council has signed a resolution bringing an amendment to the Board of Trustees regarding the Tobacco Policy (it is an exclusion to the policy for cultural and religious reasons)

Josh will contact the Vice President for Administration Office to discuss this issue.

Sidewalk or Walking Structure for Fairview Street Next to Daniell Heights – Jonathan
Josh commented that this is a prominent walking path and would like to see sidewalks or a walking structure for the safety of pedestrians.

It was commented that if it is Michigan Tech property, the capital projects process would need to be followed.

If the roadway is owned by the City of Houghton than Michigan Tech would not have any say in what is done. It was commented that the City of Houghton has been very responsive to requests and USG has a liaison assigned to them. Jonathan volunteered to talk to USG about this issue.
New Library Hours – Carol
Carol reported that current patron statistics show there is not a need to stay open until 2:00 a.m. With 90+ workstations in the 24-hour area, patrons have access to most of what they need. Even over the extended study, the maximum number of patrons never exceeded 30 between midnight and 7:00 a.m.

New Library Hours
- Sunday. 9:00 a.m. – Midnight
- Monday – Thursday, 7:00 a.m. – Midnight
- Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday – 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- No extended study during finals

Updates
Textbook Cache Project – Josh
Josh reported the following regarding the textbook cache project:
- It is going well except for advertising
- Books are out
- Costs are low
- Books are catalogued
- Unprocessed books are in Josh’s office
- It is too early for feedback
- He hasn’t had any request for presentations
  - He will send progress/follow-up to Jonathan

Contract Holder – Travis
Travis reported in the spring semester a student had been hired to develop an agreement that could be used between the contract holder and the co-tenant. He reported that after consulting with Legal Counsel, they recommended that Housing and Res Life not get involved with this. So instead, Travis will contact GSG and ask them if they will post the information on their website as an informational piece for students. Housing will have a link on their website to the document and will help update. Housing will send an email to both contract holders and co-tenants to alert them to the document.

Maintenance of Campus Bike Stations – Lori
Current bike stations are located near MEEM, Walker, GLRC, and the Tech Trails. After a lengthy discussion, the following tasks were assigned:
- Josh will check with GSG and Jonathan will check with USG if they would cover the cost of new pumps and tool kits when needed
- Lori will check if Facilities Management would cover the cost of labor for installation and provide monthly preventative maintenance
- Travis will look into having a supplemental air pump and tool kit housed at the residence hall desk
• Would Athletics be willing to fund the Bike Station at the Tech Trails?
• Lori will determine the cost of the tool kit and pump

It was commented that appropriate signage be placed near the bike stations to let students know that they are being funded by their Student Government (this may help dissuade students from removing parts from the Bike Stations).

Skate Board/Long Board Rack – Lori
The two racks are up in the front of the Library. The student who initiated this project had graduated so currently there is not a long-term management plan in place. Comments about the racks included:
• Students don’t like the rack because they feel their boards are not safe left outside
• They don’t have a lock to use
• Students are still bringing their boards inside
• The Library seems to be the only one trying to enforce the BOT policy
• Should the faculty be asked to discuss with their students
• USG and GSG could do an educational campaign
• Jonathan will discuss the idea of USG funding

After the lengthy discussion, the item was tabled for the time being.

More Students Joining the Student Commission
It was commented that the Student Commission needs more student involvement. It was questioned if any student can join or do they have to be part of a student governance group. Lynda commented that all students are welcome to join and attend meetings.

It was questioned if the Student Commission should be promoted more. In the past the Student Newsbrief, tabletents, and EDS have been used for promotion. Lynda reported that so far this semester she has used the Student Newsbrief and EDS for promotion. She hasn’t distributed table tents for the last few years because of complaints from one of the student government groups.

It was suggested that IRHC, Panhellenic Council, and IFC be contacted to see if they would like to send representation to the meetings. Then there would be five groups represented at each meeting. Josh will contact these groups.

Prioritized List of Accessibility Issues
Josh wants to draft a charge and form a subcommittee to determine how they should move forward with this issue. After discussion, this was tabled until the Student Commission has more student involvement.
Next Meeting
The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 28. Lynda will be out of the office so Travis volunteered to take minutes at the meeting. She will send out the agenda on September 22. Please forward any additions/deletions directly to Travis Pierce (tlp@mtu.edu).

Fall Meeting Dates
- September 28, 2017, 2:00 pm, Admin 404
- October 12, 2017, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- October 26, 2017, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- November 9, 2017, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- December 14, 2017, 2:00 pm, Admin 404