

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 8, 2016**

Present: Donna Beels, Jason Cavins, Les Cook, Jonathan Davey, Lynda Heinonen, Judy Klutts, Carol Makkonen, Erin Matas, Dave Nordstrom, Travis Pierce, Jiongxun (Jason) Zhang

Welcome and Brief Overview of the Student Commission – Les

Discussion

Cigarette Butts on US 41 Medians - Lynda

Lynda mentioned that a student expressed concern about the number of cigarette butts that litter the US41 medians. It was commented that students groups have volunteered in the past to clean up litter around campus. It was suggested that this could also be a Make a Difference Day project.

Portrait 2045 - Jason

Jason reported at the last GSG meeting graduate students expressed concern regarding the Portrait 2045 of having a much larger graduate student body. Concerns included; housing, transportation, and facilities.

USG Update – Jacob

- Possible town hall meeting for students to get information about renter’s rights in the local community
- Provide information at K-Day (Lode and USG table) about voter registration

Voter Registration - Jacob

Jacob reported there will be voter registration on campus on September 19 (mobile unit) and September 20 (Wads Annex). IPS is coordinating the September 20th event and taking care of marketing for the September 19th event.

Skate Board and Long Boards Racks – Jacob

Jacob commented that students would like to have some sort of rack to be able to leave their skate boards and long boards outside. After discussion, it was decided that Jacob will draw up a possible plan for a rack and then Facilities will be contacted to see if they could build these.

Lot 10 – Jacob

Jacob asked if Lot 10 was going to be paved. Travis reported that it is in the plan but will not be done until next summer.

Transportation Services – Les

The students present did not have any complaints about registering their vehicles. The process was revamped over the past year and seemed to be successful because the lines at Transportation Services were minimal at the beginning of the semester.

Dining Services – Travis

Travis reported there has been some congestion at McNair Hall because students need to enter/exit from the same door. This change was made because students were allowing their friends without meal passes to enter the door that wasn't monitored.

The weekend counts at Wadsworth Hall are high and McNair Dining Hall may need to open for meals (they are currently not open on the weekends).

Value Statements – Les

Les reported the pictures on the Value Statements are going to be updated.

New Logo – Les

It was questioned when the street banners will be replaced and Les reported as soon as possible. He was not sure what would be done with the old banners.

Curbside Recycling – Les and Jacob

It was reported that the City of Houghton has started curbside recycling and is also accepting glass. There is a communication plan to alert the students.

Additional Students on Student Commission – Les

Suggestions included:

- Sustainability Group – Chris Woljick
- Students from the community

Possible Guest Speakers – Les

- The person who has been integral in getting recycling started in the City of Houghton – Les
- Dave McConnell – consultant for Michigan Tech – Les (Tech Experience Fee)

SDC – Dave

Dave reported Army ROTC would like to have more chin-up bars in the Multi-Purpose room. Les commented that the fitness room space could be expanded because it is so busy.

Work Out Space in Hall – Travis

Travis reported that the work out space in the halls is utilized. Hillside Place is a bit less used. The McNair space has been looked at to expand but because of the design of the building it would be difficult to do so.

Wadsworth Hall Annex – Travis

Travis reported the Annex is underutilized because of the layout/technology. He commented that they are adding technology and electrical outlets. Jacob commented that the furniture should be updated.

Suggestions for the Future

- Student Union on the water
- Utilize the waterfront – any new building should be built on the waterfront
- Have only one residential hall

Blue Recycle Bins – Carol

Carol reported the little blue recycle bins are disappearing from the Library. Les suggested we do a recycling campaign. We could purchase the recycling bins and ask students to pay a minimal amount.

Text Books in the Library – Erin

Erin reported that students are asking the Library to have textbooks in the Library but Erin said it is not the Library's policy to purchase copies because it is not practical for budgetary reasons. They encourage the students to ask their instructors to put a copy or two of the textbook on course reserve. Students can come to the Library to check the book out for a few hours.

The Library also have subscriptions to e-books and they have reached to faculty to incorporate more open educational resources in their curriculum.

Jacob reported that a Josh Marshall came to a University Senate meeting to discuss the rising cost of textbooks. Les suggested that he be invited to an upcoming Student Commission meeting. Josh and Erin could work on crafting a statement to be sent to the faculty and the Student Commission could support.

It was questioned if the Library could buy the "old" version of the textbooks from students. Erin explained that this still would be an expensive but will bring the idea to the table. It was also questioned if the Library could accept donated copies from students and organize a textbook swap.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2016, at 2:00 pm in 404 Administration Building.

Fall Meeting Dates

- Thursday, September 22, 2:00 pm, 404 Administration Building
- Thursday, October 13, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- Thursday, October 27, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- Thursday, November 10, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- Thursday, December 8, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB