

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, November 10, 2016**

Present: Donna Beels, Jacob Cavins, Les Cook, Jonathan Davey, Lynda Heinonen, Judy Klutts, Josh Marshall, Erin Matas, Carol McCullah, Kyle McGurk, Dave Nordstrom, Margo O'Brien, Brenda Rudiger, Kerri Sleeman, Justin Zhang

Welcome – Jacob and Justin

Updates

Town Hall Meetings – Jacob

Jacob reported that the USG Student Affairs committee continues to work on scheduling a Renter's Rights Open Forum but will now not take place until the spring semester. It was commented that it would be nice to hold it before students sign contracts for the spring semester. Jacob will keep the committee updated.

Skate Board/Long Board Rack – Jacob

Jacob reported that he has not submitted a Facilities Management request yet because he has not had a chance to review possible sites for racks to be placed around campus. Kerri suggested that Jacob set up a time for the two of them to meet to review sites.

It was reported that the Board of Trustees passed a new policy restricting certain items from being brought into buildings (for example long boards and hover boards).

Jason distributed a rack and asked for suggestions. Kerri commented that Facilities Management would be able to have one their staff review the draft and work on the most cost effective plan

It was commented that it would be a great to provide an alternative solution for students so they could comfortably leave their boards outside.

Textbooks – Erin and Josh

Josh reported that he discussed the idea of USG and larger student orgs organizing volunteers to handle distribution and collection of textbooks. Josh will work on a written proposal and hopes to have to have it completed by the next meeting.

Erin reported that they did some research on what other institutions are doing regarding textbooks and they found that they have their student government involved in textbooks and coming up with a either a swap program or working with their library to have a small lending library. Erin commented that the goal is to have a program that is sustainable over time.

Erin also reported that she is on the Research Senate committee and they are moving to establish an ad hoc committee that wants to address the high cost of textbooks.

Contract Holder - Jacob

The group has not had a chance to meet yet so there is no update.

Prince's Point – Kyle

Kyle reported that on Make a Difference Day, 35 students met to clean up Prince's Point. While progress was made he commented that it is far from complete. He commented that while they could have gone in there with machinery and done the job quicker he wanted to have students work on it with the idea of ownership taking place.

Kyle gave a brief presentation of the history, Make a Difference Day report, and next steps. (The presentation is attached with the minutes.) Brenda reported that she will share the presentation with alumni.

Please email any suggestions to Kyle (kpmcgurk@mtu.edu).

Printer Station in Daniell Heights Community Room

IT is in the process of ordering a printer for the Heights Community room. They expect to see this placed in the Heights before the end of the calendar year.

Students Working in Dining Halls/MUB – Will

At the last meeting Will reported that in the past students were allowed to eat if they worked at the MUB or in the Dining Halls. He commented that this was cut out because of some abuse of the system.

This was discussed at length and it was questioned if students could be compensated for not being allowed to eat. Judy commented that she didn't think so and that they just don't offer this incentive anymore because of the widespread abuse that had been taking place.

It was questioned if this has affected students applying for positions and Judy reported they have not seen a decrease in applications.

New**Ice Skate Rental Program – Jacob**

Jacob reported that the Student Affairs committee is discussing creating an ice skate rental program. Currently a program like this does not exist in the Houghton area.

Dave reported that Athletics and Recreation has looked into this in the past but did not move forward with the idea. He also reported the Copper Country Skating academy used to give out skates for free. It was commented that sometimes it is cheaper to buy used skates from Center Ice than it would be to rent.

Jacob reported that students have at times had to drop out of their skating class because they couldn't find skates to use.

Jacob reported a Facebook survey had been done in 2013, with 50-60 responses and 75% of the respondents said they would utilize a skate rental program.

It was suggested that a skate drive be conducted because in the local area there is a lot of households that skates are no longer being used and would probably be donated.

Jacob reported that the OAP has been approached for possible storage for skates.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, at 2:00 pm in Ballroom A1, MUB. It was decided if there are not any new agenda items the meeting will be canceled due to it being so close to the end of the semester.