Student Commission Meeting  
Thursday, December 7, 2017

Present: Les Cook, Nick Cunningham, Anthony Custard, Jonathan Davey, Phoebe Glazko, Lynda Heinonen, Hattie Kinnisten, Judy Klutts, Erin Matas, Dave Nordstrom, Travis Pierce, Anita Quinn, Matt Rennell, Brenda Rudiger, Abu Sayeed Md Shawon, Hossein Tavakoli, Sam Willard,

Welcome – Matt

Guest – Dr. Christy Oslund – Discussion on accommodations for students with temporary disabilities.
Christy reported that most of the students she sees who are seeking temporary parking passes are the ones that require the use of crutches or have sustained head injuries. Because of these injuries, they may need to drop a class, have problem getting to class, and parking may be an issue.

Christy reported that Disability Services is able to provide students with a temporary parking pass but the students also need a Michigan Tech permit (these can be purchased by the month, semester, or year) to park in a handicap spot on campus and they may only park in a lot that they would otherwise be allowed to park in. Even if they have a temporary parking permit from the Disabilities Office or a handicap placard from the Secretary of State Office they are not allowed to park in any handicap parking spot in a staff or faculty lot. Her understanding is that Transportation Services provides the students with a map of spots that are available to them.

Christy commented that she gets approximately 20 requests for temporary parking in a semester. She said that not all students come through her office. It was suggested that Transportation Services should have the number of temporary passes issued for injuries (not visitors). It was suggested that students who have had accessibility issues be surveyed and that Transportation Services should have those student’s names.

On campus-housing was also discussed. It was questioned why Daniell Heights does not have automatic door openers. Christy explained that this is something that one does not have in their home so while it may be inconvenient, a person is still able to access getting into a home/building/etc. Travis explained they have done the following to help students in the residence halls with disabilities:
- Help them to un-loft
- Allow them to move to a different residence hall
- Have given an electronic clicker to open doors

He also commented that as there are major renovations or new construction will be ADA compliant. He also reported that one of the 350 apartments at Daniell Heights is ADA compliant.
After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to focus on “What impacts students the most? And what we can do?”

A sub-committee was formed that includes Anita Quinn (aquinn), Christy Oslund (smoslund), Abu Sayeed Md Shawon (ashawon), and Aiden Lynch (ajlynch). They will meet to discuss how to move forward.

**Updates**

**Lighting behind the SDC**
Dave reported they are in the process of fundraising for new seating at the football/soccer field and if a light is added it would be between the field and Lot 24.

There is no plan to add lighting behind the soccer fields (a short cut to get back to campus).

**Sidewalk or Walking Structure for Fairview Street Next to Daniell Heights – John and Anthony**
Anthony reported that the Inter Residence Hall council (IRHC) and McNair Hall Association wrote a petition to add sufficient lighting on Fairview Street.

It came to the attention of GSG that the City of Houghton is discussing changing a two-way street to a one-way in this area. GSG expressed concern because it could increase the rate of accidents because a one-way street would make it harder to see. It was questioned if the City of Houghton has done any studies to determine what would be the best option.

After discussion it was decided that the Student Commission's recommendation would be additional lighting but not a one-way street.

Matt will follow-up with John Nowosad to express these concerns and recommendations and will report back.

**All in Campus Democracy Challenge – Jonathan**
Jonathan reported at the last meeting he explained the “All in Campus Democracy Challenge” and had hoped to have student representation on this recently formed committee. He commented that GSG had reported that they were not interested in having a member join and he had not heard from any of the other student groups.

Jonathan commented that he will be leaving his position at the University but if there is interest in joining the committee to please contact Rochelle Spencer at (raspence@mtu.edu).
Spin Stationless Bikeshare – Lynda
The information regarding the Spin Stationless Bikeshare had been forwarded to Lynda to see if the Student Commission would be interested in pursuing this. Comments from the members included:
- IRHC did not show a lot of interest
- One liked the idea because they were an avid bicyclist
- You can only bike to Michigan Tech two months of the year so it didn’t seem to be a very feasible idea
The Student Commission decided not to move forward with this.

Promoting the Student Commission – Erin
Erin commented she would like to see the Student Commission promoted more and have the students understand what the Student Commission is/does. She also commented that she seen the Student Commission promoted in the Student Newsbrief and the EDS (electronic display system) and thinks that a lot of students have done so also but they do not know what the Student Commission is/does. Could we put flyers in the Student Org mail boxes? Also it was suggested an article be placed in the Lode and promoted with the Film Board. After discussion, Rochelle volunteered to work on flyers and possible table tents.

Changes for 2018 Spring Semester
The following changes will take place in the spring semester:
- Matt Rennell is graduating in December 2017
- Hattie Kinnisten is the USG VP and will serve as the Student Commission Co-Chair
- Phoebe Glazko will sent a rep from Panhellenic Council
- Anthony Custard has class and will try to have a rep from IRHC attend the meetings

2018 Spring Semester – Lynda will add these to everybody’s calendars.
- Thursday, January 25, 2017, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, February 8, 2018, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, February 22, 2018, 2:00 p.m., Wadsworth Hall, G17-19
- Thursday, March 8, 2018, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Ballroom B2-B3
- Thursday, March 22, 2018, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Superior Room B001
- Thursday, April 12, 2018, 2:00 p.m., Administration Building, 404
- Thursday, April 26, 2018, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Ballroom B3

If you are graduating, best wishes, good luck with all your future plans, and thank you for serving on the Student Commission!!!