

Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 25, 2021
Zoom Meeting 2:00pm

Present: Sarah Anderson, Joe Cooper, Caroline Czyzewski, Marc Geborkoff, David Holden, Beka Horsch, Mia Kempainen, Margaret Landsparger, Justin Liakos, Dan Liebau, Jeremy Lundy, Keith Machiela, Michael Maurer, Ally O'Neill, Laura Putwen, Bryce Walbrun, Matt Weekley

Items

- [Townsend/College/East Montezuma Project](#)
- COVID Testing - Ideas to boost participation - Joe Cooper
 - Will incentives work? Idea for raffles for high ticket items, gift cards, or parking passes. Discussion about how some students may be COVID fatigued or concerned about testing positive and having to quarantine. There could be a misconception that the risk may be lower because the numbers are down. Transportation may be a concern, would it be easier if the testing was closer to the main campus? Also, the testing times may need to be adjusted.
- CARES/Stimulus Student Support - Joe Cooper
 - Package #1 CARES Act
 - Last year
 - Eligible students (determined by the federal government) were given a block grant of \$350
 - Some money was kept for emergency aid for students
 - Money has been expended
 - Package #2 CARES Act 2
 - Passed December 27, 2020
 - The university just received the money
 - Another round of block grants to all eligible students hopefully in mid-April
 - There are not as many restrictions on this package for eligibility as compared to package #1
 - No conditions on future enrollment in this package
 - Package #3
 - Most recent stimulus package that was passed
 - Larger amount than the first 2 packages
 - Looking at early fall semester 2021, waiting for the details from the federal government

- [Pass/Fail Initiative](#) (USG) Bryce Walbrun
 - Continued discussion on how to support the pass/fail option for spring semester. Information in the link on the proposal and templates for sending emails in support of this initiative.
 - Link to petition <https://forms.gle/49BQQN1hbsxfXa9JA>
 - 10% of the student body has signed the petition.
 - Please share this information to help spread the word.

- Update on Fall Break Push (USG) Bryce Walbrun
 - The Student Affairs Committee and USG have been investigating the possibility of having a fall break/mid semester recess/October recess. They are proposing to shift the academic year calendar. Based on data there is an intense spike in October due to stress and burnout, this recess could possibly help. The proposal suggests having the fall semester begin the Thursday before the last Monday in August with an October recess taking place the Thursday and Friday of week 7. This proposal would need a senator to endorse it in order to bring it to a Senate meeting.
 - This conversation was started in October 2020 and the hope is to implement the change in fall 2022.
 - Some concerns from the Senate over VPA schedule disruption, summer research disruption, labs that meet once a week, O week disruption
 - There are logistics that would need to be figured out but there is a lot of support for this initiative.

Transitions

- If you will be leaving the student commission please email miaw@mtu.edu to be removed from the list. If you know who your replacement will be please also send that information in the email.

Next Meeting

- Thursday, April 8

2021 Spring Meeting Dates

- Thursday, April 22