

Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 2017

Present: Les Cook, Johnny Diaz, Marc Geborkoff, Lynda Heinonen, Joseph Heltsley, Angie Kohlemainen, Will Lytle, Erin Matas, Carol McCullah, Kyle McGurk, Dave Nordstrom, Lori Weir

Welcome – Les, Joseph, and Will

Presentation – Prince’s Point Project – Kyle McGirk

Kyle gave a great presentation on Prince’s Point. The committee commented that the presentation was done very thoroughly and asked Kyle to forward it to the Student Commission list serve.

Comments and questions included:

- Please include indigenous people in future planning.
- Find/identify groups that want to take ownership.
- Could the student group (s) be advised Facilities Management, Student Activities, or the Outdoor Adventure Program?
- Thank you Dustin Sommers and now Kyle McGirk for their passion in wanting to make improvements/upgrades at Prince’s Point.

Updates

Town Hall Meetings

No update. It was commented that this take place before students sign leases.

Skate Board/Long Board Rack

No update.

Contract Holder - Jacob

No update. It was commented that there is only one contract holder and they would like to see that half of the responsibility be shifted to the other tenant. If the co-tenant moves out the contract holder bears full responsibility for the rent (Daniell Heights).

Textbooks – Erin

Erin reported that Josh has submitted a proposal to the Library and shared it with GSC and USG. Her understanding is that while GSG and USG think it’s a good idea overall, they wouldn’t be able to be a consistent organizing force but could possibly donate funds. So this means that it’s back to proposing that the Library play a large role in the textbook cache (maintaining, organizing, doing).

It was commented that this seems to be many splinter groups trying to do the same thing regarding textbooks. They include:

- 1) Adhoc Senate Committee – textbooks/how instructors use them in their courses
- 2) Auxiliary – what are other Universities doing?
- 3) Josh – textbook cache

It was commented that they would like to know what kind of interest there is on campus because they do not want to see a lot of work done without determining this is something that the students want implemented.

Erin commented that it is moving forward but not sure what the end plan will be.

Other comments regarding textbooks included:

- First-year students can check out books that are on course-reserve for 2-3 hours
- Michigan Tech Library does NOT purchase text books because of the expense
- It would be nice if the author would provide a few complimentary copies for course-reserve
- Would like to see examples from Universities to see if this is an successful endeavor
 - Research indicates that at some Universities that some student governments are very involved (Erin will send links to Kyle)

New Items

Transportation – Will

Will reported that children can't ride the shuttle. Angie commented that to be in compliance with their insurance passengers must be 18 years old. Children can ride the City of Houghton busses and also use the two taxi services in the area.

It was commented that because Michigan Tech is a family friendly university, we should try to figure out some way to accommodate passengers who are under 18.

Local School Closings – Les

Les commented that he received a complaint from a student because he could find a computer to use in the Library on a recent "snow day" because the local middle and high school students were on them.

Erin commented that if this happens to Michigan Tech students they should report it to the Library staff and they will take care of the situation. Another suggestion was that students can check out a laptop if computers are not available. It was commented that the Library could be proactive and monitor usage on those days when school is closed.

Will reported that the Work-Life Committee is working on an App called "Snow Day". This would match high school students with younger students who need babysitters because school is closed.

It was questioned if there is a snow-day/late-close child care focus in the community. It was commented that some churches may provide services but not aware of anything else.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26, at 2:00 pm in G17/G19 Wadsworth Hall.