

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, February 14, 2019**

Present: Cole Arntsen, Prathamesh Deshpande, Robon Edwards, Marc Geborkoff, Lynda Heinonen, Beka Horsch, Gail Kotajarvi-Gerard, James Langsford, Dan Liebau, Patti Luokkanen, Keith Machiela, Carol McCullah, Wesley McGowan, Benjamin Petrie, Travis Pierce, Anita Quinn, Zoe Quinn, Elizabeth Rose, David Zei

Welcome – Robon

Updates

Signage Committee Report – Anita

Anita reported she had toured the M&M Building with Owen Mills. They have determined that 60 directional signs are needed in the building. Two College of Engineering students have been assigned the task of taking a picture of where each sign will be placed in the building. These students will drop the pictures in a common drive to be shared with the appropriate people. She would like Travis to provide the stakeholders (16) in the M&M building with both low-end and high-end costs of signage.

Anita will be retiring in two weeks but Owen Mills is available to help with the project. Travis commented that the three of them (Anita, Owen, and Travis) should meet to determine the best way to complete this project.

Anita commented there inventory of signage includes just the inside of the M&M Building and not any outside signage.

It was questioned if the Dow Building has had a signage review. Anita commented that the M&M Building was the Student Commission's pilot program but if it is successful the Dow Building could possibly be looked at.

MDOT Presentation Discussion

Dan reported that he contacted MDOT to find out if they would like to hold a meeting for the entire student body or attend an upcoming Student Commission meeting to discuss the 2021 Highway Construction project. They preferred attending the Student Commission but a date for them to attend a meeting has not been finalized.

Once the date is determined, Student Commission members can invite a representative from the various student organizations to attend.

Lynda will have the room adjusted to have seating for 50 people. Dan will send an email to the Student Commission committee members when the date is known.

Campus Bicycle Initiative Discussion – Travis, Dan, Robon, and Marc

Travis reported the sub-group had met and came up with a draft copy for the Student Commission members to review. After review the draft document was adjusted to read.

DRAFT

Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Working Group

Overview:

Over the years of the existence of the Student Commission, the topic of bicycles and non-motorized wheeled devices on campus has been discussed on multiple occasions. Most often the conversations are sparked by an incident or perception of unsafe behavior by cyclists, roller bladers, skate boarders, or pedestrians on the main campus.

The City of Houghton has a Bike and Pedestrian Committee that developed a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. The plan updated and combined the City's Walkability Plan from 2002 and the City's Bike Plan from 2007. Since the creation of the plan, the City has worked to improve non-motorized access. In 2017, the City designated the Bicycle Boulevard along Houghton Avenue near campus.

In 2010, the League of American Bicyclists awarded the City of Houghton a Bicycle-Friendly Community bronze designation. In 2013, the designation was upgraded to silver. In 2017, the Bicycle Friendly University designation earned by Tech in 2013 was renewed.

The Purpose:

The Non-Motorized Transportation Working Group is intended to contribute to the overall campus safety for non-motorized wheeled devices and pedestrians, make recommendations for land use regarding storage and pathways, and to establish a network where interested parties can work collaboratively promoting a healthy Michigan Tech.

Charge:

To review and evaluate the current state of safety for non-motorized wheeled devices and pedestrians on the main Michigan Tech campus.

To provide specific recommendations to the President's Council regarding the use of bicycles on campus.

Specific Tasks:

The committee is asked to consider the following questions/statements as they begin to work on define the scope of their work.

1. Do we want bicycles and other non-motorized wheeled devices on campus?
2. Define bicycle accessibility TO campus
3. Define bicycle accessibility ON campus
4. Bicycle Racks - Are there enough? Are they in the right locations?
5. Bicycle repair stations
6. Bicycle safety - currently there appears to be no rules and no regulations
7. Bicycle maps and signage
8. Should guidelines be set for new construction or renovations to include designed bike racks or covered bike shelters?

Initial Membership:

USG, GSG, Campus Bike Group, Facilities(Dan), Public Safety, IRHC, Human Resources or Lakeshore center, Transportation Services,

Comments included:

- If you prevent bikes more cars will be driven to campus
- Some students drive to campus then bike to class
- The title “Non-motorized Transportation Plan” covers skateboards and longboards but what about motorized skateboards?

After lengthy discussion, Zoe Quinn made a motion to move forward with the initiative and Prathamesh Deshpande seconded it. All were in favor.

The next steps include:

- The Student Commission co-chairs will meet with President Dr. Koubek on Wednesday, March 6 to discuss
 - Prathamesh will attend the meeting and if their schedule allows, James and Elizabeth will also attend
- Travis will work on the prep work for this meeting and discuss with Dean Gorman
- The document will be finalized by Travis, Dan, James, and Marc

New Items**Library Extended Study Hours – Pattie**

Patti reported the Library is discussing extending study hours the week before finals by two hours (close at 2:00 a.m. vs. Midnight). This would effective Sunday, April 21 through Thursday, April 26, 2019. The students thought this was a good idea.

It was suggested that hours be extended the Friday and Saturday hours before finals by two hours (close at 9:00 p.m. vs. 7:00 p.m.)

Marc and Dan asked that Public Safety and Facilities Management be notified if these extensions are implemented.

It was questioned if these longer hours could be implemented in the fall semester (not just the week before finals). Patti said this will be discussed by Library staff.

McNair Outdoor Lighting – James

James reported that the lighting outside McNair Hall is always on. Dan commented they are aware of this and he is working with the contractor and the electrician to have this fixed.

Recycling Efforts on Campus – Dan

Dan reported that he met with Jay Meldrum, Executive Director of Sustainability to discuss recycling efforts on campus. Jay reported that people do not know what can be recycled on campus. He would like to develop a training program for students and staff. Dan suggested that he present to the Student Commission and asked if the members would be interested in having Jay attend an upcoming meeting. They were in favor of this so Dan will work with Jay to determine a date.

It was commented that students in the Residence Halls would like to recycle but don't know how to go about doing this.

Winter Carnival

It was questioned how Winter Carnival had gone for the various areas?

- Public Safety – went well
 - Weather was nicer than some years so there were more contacts
 - One arrest (non-student)
 - A few noise complaints
 - A few drinking incidents
- Facilities Management – went well
 - One light on the Husky statue was damaged
 - Blue Key had the campus super clean the day after the All-Nighter

Happy Valentine's Day!

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in the MUB, Ballroom A1.