

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 8, 2018**

Present: Marc Geborkoff, Lynda Heinonen, Amy Howard, Hattie Kinnisten, Judy Klutts, Jacob Loew, Antonio Ochoa, Travis Pierce, Anita Quinn, Brenda Rudiger, Abu Sayeed Md Shawon, Rochelle Spencer, Ryan Wakeham

**Guests: Amber Bennett, Director, Counseling Services
Courtney Meyer, Student, Creative Suites**

Welcome – Hattie

Residential Life Offices – Marc

At the last meeting Marc reported that the University has two Residential Life Officers (Ryan Wakeham and Robert Harry) living at Daniell Heights and wanted them to become more involved with the Student Commission.

Marc introduced Ryan Wakeham to the committee members and asked him to give a brief overview of his role on campus. Ryan explained that the two officers are there to get to know students and it is a learning opportunity for all involved. They have participated in a number of RA programs and want the students to see the Public Safety face and that they are part of the community.

It was questioned how this impacts the domestic minorities and Ryan said they are making a lot of contact and having a good impact with the program. He reported that surveys have been done over the years and opinions have changed positively.

It was also questioned if they have obstacles and Ryan responded that while students know of the program they don't necessarily know who the officers are. They have been working on being able to stand out from the other Public Safety Officers. It was suggested to hold a "Come and meet the Residence Life Officers".

New Items

Counseling Services Backlog-Timeliness – Jacob

Jacob reported that he has heard from a number of different students that it takes a long time to get an appointment with Counseling Services.

Lynda had invited Amber Bennett, Director of Counseling Services to address this issue. Amber commented that there is rumor among the students that it takes four weeks to get in to see a counselor in their office. She said this isn't true. She reported the following:

- She commented that students may use it as an excuse to not make an appointment because
 - They don't want to see a counselor
 - They are anxious to make an appointment

- It takes a new student 2-3 days to Triage and the next appointment will take place in two weeks
- Emergencies are seen the same day, 24-7, year round
- They have Support Groups and Drop-In Counseling (see Team Drive for information)
- Counseling Services schedules students from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday
- They have seen 42 more students than they did last year at this time
- She worries about the students who need help but believe they can't get in
- Please spread the words to other students
- Contact counseling@mtu.edu or Amber directly at ambennet@mtu.edu

Updates

Promotion of Student Commission – Travis and Courtney

Travis reported that Courtney works in the Housing and Residential Suites Creative Suite office and he tasked her with coming up with a Marketing Communications Plan for the Student Commission.

Courtney reviewed the nine page plan – Student Commission Campaign Rebrand Integrated Marketing and Communications 2018. After the presentation, the committee agreed she had done a great job!

Action items for the next meeting.

- Review the plan and discussion will take place
- Students present – please take back to your constituents for review

Comments

- The video idea would be a great way to rebrand the Student Commission
- The name can be changed if students opt to go this route
- Theme – “Cutting Through the Red Tape”

Travis commented that Creative Suite could have this ready to implement in the fall 2018 if the Student Commission focuses on this at the next three meetings.

Temporary/Handicapped Parking – Travis

Travis reported that he has been in touch with a number of people to discuss this issue. They included:

- Susan Sullivan, Assistant Director, ADA, Institutional Equity
- Dr. Christy Oslund, Disability Services, Wahtera Center for Student Success
- Christy Isaacson, Director of Transportation Services

Travis reported that currently the process to obtain a temporary/handicapped parking pass is rather cumbersome and they have been working on this. At that time of this meeting, this is still in process because of the following:

- It is in flux right now because it is still being determined where Transportation Services will report
- A Flow Chart for the students will be created to help guide the students through the process
- Each student will be worked with individually to determine the best spot for them to park
- Once process is finalized, post information on website and have flowchart in Disability Services

Travis commented that he would like to see this resolved by the April 26, 2018, meeting.

Lot 12/Hubbell Concerns - Rochelle

Rochelle commented that because there is not a railing, some cars going in and out of Lot 12 pull out of the parking lot on the west side of the lot rather than going through the lot entrance and she has seen a lot of people nearly getting hit by these cars. It seems to happen more in the winter months. After discussion, the following was recommended:

- Leave snow on end (this option would lose parking spots)
- Place temporary barrier

Marc volunteered to contact Facilities Management (Grounds) to discuss possible options and he will report back at the next meeting.

Soundproofing and Temperature Control – MUB B001 – Jacob

Complaints have been brought to Jacob's attention regarding soundproofing and temperature control in MUB B001 (where the meeting was taking place today). If the air handler is on, it's hard to hear and if it's off, the room gets very warm. Also the room can be noisy because of all the traffic going by. Suggestions for fixing the problem included:

- A switch on the wall to turn the air handler unit off and on
- Add to Room Reservation a spot to turn air handler unit off or on
- Have Building Manager's cell phone number posted in room

After discussion, Anita volunteered to talk to Facilities Management about this issue.

Next Meeting

The Student Commission will meet on Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. in the Superior Room B001, MUB.

2018 Spring Semester

- Thursday, April 12, 2018, 2:00 p.m., 404 Administration Building
- Thursday, April 26, 2018, 2:00 p.m., MUB, Ballroom B3