

Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, October 25, 2018

Present: Apurva Baruah, Jimmie Cannon, Carley Davis, Marc Geborkoff, Lynda Heinonen, Beka Horsch, Dan Liebau, Carol McCullah, Wesley McGowan, Antonio Ochoa, Travis Pierce, Anita Quinn, Brenda Rudiger, David Zei

Welcome – Apurva

Updates

Student Commission Promotion Event Report Out (October 16-17 from 10:00 a.m. Noon)

Student Commission members set up a tent on October 16 (by the Husky statue) and then due to inclement weather moved into the Library on the 17th. Both days were considered a success. They passed out a total of 500 business between the two days and gave away 300 cookies (thank you Judy) each of the days.

Future promotional events were discussed with the following was decided

- One will be held each semester
 - In January have a table in the Library
 - At the January meeting dates will be discussed
 - For the fall date it was suggested to hold it during Welcome Week – although without a summer meeting to plan that may be hard to coordinate. More discussion will need to take place near the end of the spring semester.
- Creative Suites will print an additional 1,000 business cards

At the promotion event, one of the recurring questions was how is USG different than the Student Commission? Members explained that the Student Commission has faculty and staff on the committee and can often expedite the process in taking care of an issue.

Student Commission Reps for Signage Committee – Anita

Anita and Jacob (through email) reported the following:

- The committee met with a majority of the key stakeholders of the M&M building to discuss the possibility of signage solutions to navigation issues (13 departments are housed in the building)
- Interest and initial buy-in seemed positive
- Had some great discussion about past signage initiatives, existing needs, and key areas of navigation breakdown
- Reached out to a handful of recommended individuals to get further feedback (waiting to hear back)
- Jacob drafted notes from the meeting into a loose proposal of ideas (a Google Doc was created)
- Once the individual feedback is to those summarized ideas, Jacob will be seeking comments and suggestions from the committee that met

- Once the list of ideas is solidified into a firm proposal, the committee can dig into the details and move forward with the signage plan that Anita researched

Travis asked that the committee work with Creative Suites (he'll be the liaison) and that the signage committee "vet" the language on the signs because Creative Suites won't be able to do that. Creative Suites will work with UMC to make sure font, spacing, etc. is correct.

Travis commented that UMC (Joel Vertin) is demoing a new campus map software.

Bicycles on Campus – Bekah

Bekah reported that once signs are put out on campus regarding the space between the MUB Circle and the Rekhi Hall being a bike dismount zone, Bekah and Prathamesh will send articles to the Lode, Tech Today and Student Newsbrief with the lead of "You may have noticed

New Business

Cemetery Road, Lights and Sidewalk – Wesley

Wesley commented that he'd like to see a sidewalk and street lights on Cemetery Road because students walk/run on the this road to the SDC from upper Daniell Heights Apartments.

Dan commented that Michigan Tech does own the road but currently there are no plans to add a sidewalk or lights on Cemetery Road. They are trying to focus on the core campus areas and with the June 17 flood this has made things more difficult.

The part of the road that is very bumpy has been added to the deferred maintenance plan (projects are prioritized) and has been moved to Engineering Services. It was commented that the Student Commission could invite Kerri Sleeman, Executive Director of Facilities Administration and Planning to an upcoming meeting to discuss prioritization of projects. *Kerri is unable to attend the November meeting but Lynda will contact her in the spring semester to discuss possible spring dates for her to attend.*

Experience Tech Fee

Lynda reported that she had received a complaint regarding the Experience Tech Fee. The student was unhappy that they had to pay for something they would never use. The students present were surprised about the comment and wondered if the student was aware of all that was available to use because of the fee. <https://www.mtu.edu/student-affairs/interests/experience-tech/>

Carley and Antonio commented that they will take this to the Panhellenic Council and IFC respectively to find out if students are aware of the benefits available due to the Experience Tech Fee.

It was commented that signs are posted around campus this fall about the Experience Tech Fee and what the benefits are.

Fitness Center

It was commented at the meeting that the weight room should be updated and expanded. Lynda will forward this to Chris Roy, Assistant Athletic Director of Facilities and Operations.

Parking Concern

Lynda reported she had received an email regarding parking on campus and more specifically the student would like to see a parking structure built. Apurva commented that while a parking structure is a great idea it is not something that is going to happen in the near future. He commented that while the core campus does not have enough convenient parking spots there are initial talks going on (USG and GSG working together) that would help students with the overall parking situation. He reported some of the following ideas:

- Lot 24 – construct a bus stop that is heated and has Wi-Fi
- Setting up a bus stop in Gates Tennis Center Lobby
- Pay more for a guaranteed parking spot
- Involving the City of Houghton – turning some roads into additional parking spots
- The University owns Cliff Drive and turning it into a one way street with angle parking
- Utilizing local businesses (for example ShopKo and Walmart) and having bus stops in their parking lots
- Possible new lot on Garnet Street
- Introductory bus app in the works
- Have a good working bus route and promoting it

By putting all these pieces together it could possibly be implemented in a short or mid-term time frame.

It was questioned if the lights were working in the bus stops. Dan will check that everything is in working order.

Parking will remain on the Student Commission agenda and will be discussed again at the November 8th meeting.

Barkboard

Lynda reported she had received a complaint that IT had disbanded Barkboard. When she received the email, she had forwarded the email to Jarrod Karau and he had responded directly to the student.

Pedestrian Safety

Lynda reported that an email had been received asking that a sidewalk be added between Walker and the M&M Building near DHH (Cliff Drive) for pedestrian safety.

Dan commented that this will be taken care of in the spring of 2019.

WWI Trench

Lynda reported she had received a complaint that the 24-hour recording disturbs the morning quiet. Dan confirmed that the recording does run 24 hours a day because to put it on a timer was too expensive. The trench will be closed on November 11 so the committee declined to look further into this issue.

Dan commented when the trench is filled in, Facilities Management is looking at creating a garden or seasonal path where it had been.

Next Meeting

The Student Commission will meet on Thursday, October 25, 2018 p.m. in Ballroom A1, Memorial Union Building.