

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, October 10, 2013**

Present: Chris Cena, Les Cook, Lynda Heinonen, Mike Johnson, Judy Klutts, Steve Knudstrup, Shreya Kumar, Ellen Marks, Zachary Mauerman, Mary Mongeau, Rachel Morrison, Margo O'Brien, Kathy Pintar, Brenda Rudiger, Sarah Stoolmiller, Tim Ward, Renee Wells, Chris Wojick

Welcome – Chris and Shreya

Updates

Progress on Library Project – Ellen

Ellen reported the library project is making good progress and beginning October 21 the Library plans to be open 24/7. Between the hours of Midnight and 8:00 a.m. the library will have to be accessed with a Michigan Tech ID.

All of the computers (have anonymous login) are in and the furniture installation will be completed by October 18.

Ellen reported that they are currently working on documenting new policies and procedures and she will share them with the Student Commission when they are completed.

Questions and comments included:

- What is the range of services?
 - Library Services: Sunday-Saturday 24/7
 - IT Services: Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 9:00 pm
- What are the Library Café hours
 - Ellen thought they hoped to extend the hours
- Students have heard many positive comments
- More students are using Library
- Lively and active place without being loud

Textbook Option in Banweb – Chris

Chris is waiting to hear back from the Provost regarding this topic.

Text Messaging to Students from the University – Chris and Shreya

Chris reported that he brought this idea up at a USG meeting and it was well received and they liked the idea of being able to opt into it.

Shreya also brought the idea up at a GSG meeting and she reported that the graduate students liked the idea but wanted to be able to opt in and have it customizable.

Les questioned what the next step should be and it was suggested that students should be surveyed. It was also questioned if the current Safety First system could be used or would it have to be a different system. Les will follow-up with Beth Lunde, Bonnie Gorman, and Emmett Golde on how to move forward.

Legal Counsel Services for Students – Shreya

Shreya reported that legal services for students was discussed at a GSG meeting and the students liked the idea of having a lawyer on retainer but the demand for services would first have to be determined. Les suggested having the Lode conduct a poll. Steve commented that IRHC could also send out a survey.

New

New Testing Center - Margaret

Margaret Landsparger was unable to attend the meeting but was looking for input on the following:

The Testing Center will be running long exams from the new testing center (for instance Fundamentals of Engineering and Fundamentals of Surveying). These type of exams can take upwards of six hours to complete. If they are offered during the week which day is better and what time? If they are offered on the weekends, what time should they start?

Students present made the following comments:

- Some longer tests would be impossible to give during the week
- A lot of students would miss out on taking tests if they were offered only during the week
- If tests are offered on the weekends they should start at 8:00 am.

Student Concerns/Complaints – Les, Chris, and Shreya

Les reported that he had reviewed the student issues facebook page and currently there were no new concerns/complaints on the website.

Zachary commented that students are still expressing concern about lack of communications. He reported that USG is looking for more opportunities to communicate better with the students.

Daniell Heights – Shreya

Shreya questioned if there was an update on a possible Daniell Heights renovation. Les reported that the University is still negotiating with companies and is determining how to move forward. He said that once that decision is made students will be brought in for their input. Les reported that any type of construction will have to be approved by the Board of Control before the project can begin.

Goodwill Farm – Shreya

Shreya questioned if there was an update on the former Goodwill Farm being renovated. Les reported that Julien Properties is looking to have the property rezoned and making the building into high density housing (140+ beds). It was reported that the issue was not resolved at last night's Houghton City Council meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2013 at 2:00 pm in Alumni Lounge A, MUB.