

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2013**

Present: Dan Bennett, Chris Cena, Lynda Heinonen, Mike Johnson, Judy Klutts, Steve Knudstrup, Shreya Kumar, Dan LaForest, Ellen Marks, Zachary Mauerman, Mary Mongeau, Rachel Morrison, Dave Nordstrom, Travis Pierce, Bill Roberts, Brenda Rudiger, Sarah Stoolmiller, Renee Wells

Welcome – Shreya

New Items

Financial Aid Time Line Discussion – Bill Roberts

Bill Roberts, Director of Financial Aid gave a brief overview of Financial Aid for incoming students and for returning students. He reported that there are a Federal and State changes each year to Financial Aid and there is a lot that goes into getting packaging ready for both groups of students. He commented that the Financial Aid office is here to partner with the students and invited them to stop in the office (Admin 130) any time if they had questions or needed assistance.

Library Changes and Best Way to Communicate – Ellen Marks

Ellen reported that they are in the process of making big changes in the Library. 275 new computers and furniture will be placed in various areas in the Library. They should all be in place within the next 2 ½ weeks and an Open House will follow.

The library will be open 24/7 except for the winter holiday, Thanksgiving break, and spring break week.

Ellen asked the students “what is the best way to communicate the upcoming changes to the library?” Suggestions included:

- Blog
 - Include link to Library’s home page
 - Update Library’s information frequently
- Create a FAQ’s page
- Large poster (one that can’t be missed) at the entrance to library
- Place in Student newsbrief (contact Karma Kilpela kmaynard@mtu.edu)
- Women’s list serve (Renee Wells will send message)

Shreya commented that both GSG and USG can help to alert their constituents to the changes.

It was questioned as to where the Library’s old furniture was going. Ellen reported that the Executive Team was determining that. She commented that if departments were interested to let her know (library@mtu.edu) and she would pass their department’s name on. Ellen also reported that the Deans and Chairs are deciding what to do with the open space that will be created by the removal of the computer labs.

It was questioned if the software from the computer labs would be on the Library computers. Ellen commented that it would.

Ellen reported that the phone charges are heavily used in the Library. The current ones were placed where staff thought they would best serve the customers but if students have suggestions please forward to library@mtu.edu.

Shreya commented that at one point she had been skeptical of the changes but now feels like the Library and IT should be commended on a job well done.

Smoking on Campus

Lynda had received a complaint that there was not a designated spot on campus for smokers. She asked the Student Commission for any comments regarding the new policy. They included:

- No enforcement
- Campus Community is responsible for enforcement
- There are individuals who aren't following policy
- People are smoking on the highway median
- It will take time for changes to take effect

Dan Bennett commented that if Public Safety is contacted about somebody smoking on campus they will show up but because smoking is not illegal they will not arrest the person.

Travis commented that the no-smoking policy will not take effect until Fall of 2014 in Daniell Heights for individuals with contracts and co-tenants.

Textbook Option in Banweb

Lynda received an email questioning if an option could be placed into Banweb in which professors could select from options such as:

Textbook notes for course:

- Hard copy of book needed for in class testing (quizzes, tests, final, etc.)
- Hard copy or e-book is acceptable
- International copy is acceptable
- Specific textbook edition is necessary
- No book needed

The students present thought this was a good idea and Chris volunteered to look into this and will report back at the next meeting.

Dean of Student Open Office Hours

Lynda reported that Dr. Bonnie Gorman wanted students to be aware that she has open office hours this fall. They are listed below:

- Dean of Students Open Office Hours
 - September 23 – 1:00-2:30 pm
 - October 16 – 3:00-4:30 pm
 - October 31 – 2:00-3:30 pm
 - November 13 – 3:00-4:30 pm
 - December 4 – 3:00-4:30 pm
 - December 18 – 3:00-4:30 pm

Lynda stressed that while students are able to stop in and see the Dean during these hours they are also welcome to call (487-2212) anytime and make an appointment to meet with her also.

Dean of Engineering Search – Chris

Chris questioned if anybody knew the status of the Dean of Engineering Search. It was commented that he will be contacted with information once the process starts but that he could also call the Provost’s Office if he had any questions (487-2440).

Campaign Celebration - Brenda

Brenda reported that the Campaign Celebration is scheduled for Thursday, September 19. She reported that the Board of Control, Presidential Council of Alumnae, MTF Board of Trustees, major donors, etc. will be on campus. She will forward a schedule to the list serve.

Women’s Clothesline Project - Renee

Renee reported the Women’s Programming Committee (WPC) is sponsoring the Clothesline Project. They have 650 t-shirts that students/staff/faculty can decorate. Please stop by the Center for Diversity and Inclusion if you are interested in decorating a shirt. The t-shirts will be displayed around campus between September 23-27

<http://diversitycenter.mtu.edu/WLC/Flyers/ClotheslinePoster2013.pdf>

Color Copies – Rachel

Rachel commented that she would like to have somebody from IT invited to a Student Commission meeting to explain why Michigan Tech is now charging for color copies.

This was received from Dan deBeaubien, Chief Technology Officer by email “With respect to the core issue of charging for color printing across campus, here are a few facts which led to this decision; Over the past few years we have seen the ratio of black and white to color printing changing in favor of color. Color printing is quite expensive and costs 10-20 times as much as black and white - many jobs sent to the color printers, were, in fact, black and white. We have seen the cost of this approaching around \$.25M last year and we see a very disproportionately distributed print count per student. We looked at many other schools and found we were the only one who was not charging for color, and that the average we found was around \$.40/sheet for color. We believe we are the second lowest price per sheet in the state. We are trying hard to keep this charge as low as possible and to keep B&W printing free.

This decision was also made as part of the normal replacement of color printing hardware across campus as well, and we have added scan to email capability as part of this upgrade.

It was also commented that the current black and white printers are being heavily used now which has caused them to break down more frequently and IT has been slow to respond. Chris reported that Information Technology has ordered HP printers and they will be setup soon.

Rachel was satisfied with the explanation and felt at this time it was not necessary to invite Information Technology to an upcoming meeting.

Request for Proposals for Daniell Heights – Travis

Travis reported the Requests for Proposals (RFP) for Daniell Heights are due on Friday. The RFPs were sent to 35 companies and the Executive Team will decide on how to move forward.

Re-zoning of Goodwill Farm

It was reported that the Houghton City Council voted 3-2 to decline re-zoning the Goodwill Farm.

Physical Education Classes – Travis

Travis reported that Kinesiology is looking at scheduling some Physical Education classes on the main campus. This would reduce travel time for students. Nothing has been finalized but Travis wanted students to be aware of this.

Updates

Printers in the Residence Halls – Travis

Travis reported that each residence hall (Wads, DHH, McNair, Hillside) has a printer on-site for residents to use.

Next Meeting

After discussion, the next meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2013 at 2:00 pm in Wadsworth Hall, G17-19.