

Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, November 12, 2015

Present: Donna Beels, Lynda Heinonen, Marco LaManna, Will Lytle, Carol Makkonen, Margo O'Brien, Travis Pierce, Abbey Senczyszyn

New Items

Dining Services Price Increases – Will

Will reported that there is concern among the student organizations about Dining Services raising the prices of their food. It has put the student orgs in a tough position. Providing food at their meetings is often a draw to get students to attend meetings or is used as a fund raiser. With the price increases they can't afford to purchase it.

Comments/questions included:

- Could there be a fixed menu for student orgs?
- Bulk prices would give them a better price
- Could meals be planned a year in advance?
- Could Dining Services run specials for the student orgs?
- Engineers Without Borders has been very much impacted
- Student Orgs are getting their food elsewhere because they can't afford Dining Services
- Something needs to change so the students can afford to purchase it the right way
- Could they provide a one-topping pizza that is available only to student groups for a lower price?
- Student Orgs will start holding their meetings off-campus
- Money spent on campus goes back to the University
- Is there a delivery charge? If so, could students pick up the pizzas in order to reduce prices?

After discussion, it was decided that USG and GSG will work to together. They will discuss this with their treasurers and review current and past prices. They will then contact Darryl Matthews, Director of Dining Services and Bob Hiltunen, Director of Auxiliary Services to discuss various options.

Husky FAN (Food Access Network) – Abbey

Abbey reported that Husky FAN would like to hold a potluck in CDI for students during exam week. This would provide an opportunity to students to have a hot meal when they are busy studying. She questioned if Husky FAN would be allowed to sponsor this. After discussion, Abbey was directed to contact Janet Hayden in Risk Management (487-2267).

Updates

Maintenance Direct – Abbey

Abbey reported that she went online and filled out a report that the stall doors in the Women’s Restroom do not lock (Dow 641). Within a week, she received a communication that Facilities Management had re-lubricated the locks. She was very impressed with the process!! She felt that this is something that could be very useful to students if they took the time to report the problem. One needs to enter their ISO Username and ISO Password.

<http://www.mtu.edu/facilities/maintenance/requests/>

Sustainability Strategic Plan – Will

Will reported that currently one position is being posted (Director of Energy & Sustainability) and he would like to see two separate positions. He met with Bonnie Gorman, Dean of Students to discuss this idea. He will be meeting next week with Dave Taivalkoski and Kerri Sleeman from Facilities Management to discuss and will be meeting with Les Cook in December also.

Table Tents – Abbie

Abbie suggested that the Student Commission create table tents that market the “big” things that the Student Commission has accomplished over the years. After discussion, it was decided that flyers could also be created. Another suggestion was to create a variety of table tents that have different accomplishments on them.

Lynda will forward Abbey a list of past Student Commission accomplishments.

Freedom of Speech Forum – Will

Will reported that GSG and USG would like to host a Freedom of Speech Forum that could be used as an educational opportunity for students. It was recommended that he contact Kellie Raffaelli, Director, CDI for more information about the Town Hall that students are organizing.

Will reported that their goal is to bring both sides to the table. The following were recommended to include in the Forum:

- Un-biased moderator
- Public Safety
- University Attorney

He commented that there are two issues:

- 1) Culture on campus is inclusive and respectful and open to learning
- 2) Freedom of Speech

Will reported that this could take place possibly in December and again in the spring semester.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 10 at 2:00 pm in Ballroom B2&B3, Memorial Union Building.

In the past, this meeting has usually been canceled due to the student's busy schedules with the end of the semester. A decision will be made that week if the December 10th meeting will be held.

Spring Meeting Dates

- Thursday, January 14, 2016, 2:00 pm, MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, January 28, 2016, 2:00 pm, MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, February 11, 2016, 2:00 pm, MUB, Ballroom B1&B2
- Thursday, February 25, 2016, 2:00 pm, Wadsworth Hall, G17/G19
- Thursday, March 24, 2016, 2:00 pm, MUB, Ballroom B1&B2
- Thursday, April 14, 2016, 2:00 pm, Wadsworth Hall, G17/G19
- Thursday, April 28, 2016, 2:00 pm, MUB, Ballroom A1