

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 2015**

Present: Donna Beels, Taylor DeWitt, Lynda Heinonen, Judy Klutts, Marco La Manna, William Lytle, Carol Makkonen, Zachary Mauerman, Dave Nordstrom, Margo O'Brien, Travis Pierce, Abbey Senczyszyn, Kerri Sleeman, Chris Wojick

Welcome – Will

Will is the Vice President for GSG and the new Student Commission co-chair.

Updates

Transportation Services

Angie Kolehmainen was unable to be at this meeting but will attend the October 8th meeting to give a Transportation Services update and answer any questions people may have.

Library Food and Drink Policy – Carol

Carol reported the Library the Food and Drink Policy is as follows:

- Covered beverages are allowed throughout the Library
- Food is permitted only on the first floor but not at the computer workstations. No exceptions can be made.

Carol reported the policy isn't new but rather is being enforced because it has been impossible to keep the facility clean and students have complained about this as well.

When questioned as to how enforcement is going, Carol responded that it has not been going well and there has been a total disregard for the policy. Table tents have been placed out and they are either thrown on the floor or used as scrap paper.

Carol reported that the Director will be composing a memo and this will be given to first time offenders. If this is disregarded a second time, the person (s) will be asked to leave. If they refuse to leave, Public Safety will be called.

It was questioned if students have been alerted by email about the food and drink policy. They recommended that students be alerted by email before memos are handed out. Carol reported that they have not but will discuss this with the Director:

Commented [LH1]: See October 8, 2015, meeting minutes for correction.

It was questioned if there is signage in place to alert students about the policy. The students present said that there is a lot of signage and that it is "almost overkill".

Carol will report back how enforcement of the policy is going at the next meeting.

Dining Hall Meal Swipes – Travis

Travis reported he met with Daryl Matthews the Director of Dining to discuss the issue of the congestion that has been caused by students being able to swipe their cards on only one side of the Wads Dining Hall entry. Daryl reported that they are working on the issue and Travis will report back when he receives an update.

Water Bottle Filling Stations – Lynda

Lynda reported that there was a water bottle filling station in the EERC in the corridor of the basement floor.

Lynda also reported that there are water bottle filling stations in 18 buildings (Admin, Chem Sci, Dow, Fisher Hall, Meese Center, MUB, Rekhi, MEEM, Library, Walker, SDC, EERC, Dillman, Forestry, DHH, McNair, Wads, and Hillside) on campus but questioned if it was possible for them to be placed in the buildings that do not currently have them (Academic Office, ROTC, Hamar House, M&M, Rozsa, Public Safety, OAP, Alumni House).

Kerri responded that placing them in some of these buildings would be cost prohibitive but if there is remodeling of walls they could be installed at that time.

Promotion of Student Commission

Lynda reported the following Student Commission has or will be done:

- Newsbrief – September 18th
- EDS – Running for the semester
- Table tents – Week of October 5th

Lynda asked for any other suggestions to promote the Student Commission. Suggestions included:

- The USG Marketing Committee could promote the Student Commission along with USG
- Create a website that students could use to submit suggestions/questions
 - Zach commented that when this was tried in their group it was overwhelming
 - Create it so students have to submit an email address (there are times for anonymous responses but the Student Commission is a place to resolve issues)
- The Student Commission could host a Promotion Table in the Library

It was commented that students don't know who to contact if they have an issue. Lynda reported the WTGFW (Where to Go for What) document has been resurrected. When it is posted on line, Lynda will forward the link to the Student Commission.

New Items

Bike Lanes on Campus - Lynda

Lynda reported that there was a request to have a bike lane on campus. It was commented that this has been brought up in the past but was not pursued because paths would be so complicated and the winter weather.

After discussion, it was decided that this is a bigger issue than just having a bike lane on campus. But rather it is a combined issue between Houghton, Hancock, and Michigan Tech. It was suggested that the Houghton and Hancock City Managers be invited to an upcoming meeting to hear plans for bicycles in their communities.

Lynda will contact both City Managers (Eric Waara and Glenn Anderson).

Shuttle Service and Other Transportation Issues – Will

It was questioned if the University could charge to ride the shuttle. Kerri responded that due to insurance limitations this is not possible. The insurance company states that coverage is not included for livery of persons.

It was questioned if the City of Houghton busses could provide more route options into Daniell Heights? Kerri commented that Michigan Tech does not prohibit the busses coming into campus but routes are probably determined by keeping everything on schedule.

It was also questioned if the Michigan Tech student could use their ID card to pay for the City of Houghton busses. It was suggested that it would be better to use a credit/debit card to pay for the ride vs. using the student ID card (The City of Houghton does not take credit cards).

Will suggested that a local “ride board” be created or an Uber or Lyft Rides in Houghton. Kerri will have Angela research this idea and she will report back at the next meeting.

Dining Hall Project – Taylor

Taylor reported she was part of the Consumer Product Manufacturing Enterprise and they had questions regarding the following:

- How much food is thrown away?
- What is done with the trash?
- How much is spent on disposal of food?

Their enterprise plans include:

- Taking the food waste from the Dining Halls
- Creating a pilot plant
- Creating methane from the waste
- Long range plans include producing enough to heat buildings and provide electricity

Taylor reported that the enterprise is in the beginning stages but they want to work with Dining Services to gather information because it will help with their models to determine how much they can save the University.

Judy commented that the University has looked into composting in the past but due to it being cost prohibitive it was not pursued.

Taylor reported that due to a number of grants, the enterprise has quite a bit of funds to use towards this project.

After discussion, it was decided that Taylor will work directly with Judy Klutts and Dining Services.

Chris commented that he has a graduate student who did a study of waste and he will loan the thesis to Taylor to review.

Library Cottonwood Tree – Will

Will reported he has had a number of students report that the Cottonwood tree by the Library is near end of life and dangerous. Kerri reported that Forest Resources makes recommendations to Facilities Management about what trees should be removed on campus. Kerri will share feedback with James Schmierer in Forest Resources

Centralized Mail Boxes – Travis

Travis reported that the Post Office will be pouring a slab and placing centralized mail boxes near the bus stops in the lower and upper Heights. Currently mail is delivered to each unit but this will discontinue once the centralized mail boxes are installed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8 at 2:00 pm in Ballroom A1, Memorial Union Building.