

Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 22, 2014

Present: Michael Baskins, Donna Beels, Lynda Heinonen, Kevin Heras, Judy Klutts, Josh Krugh, Marco La Manna, Mary Mongeau, Gregg Richards, Brenda Rudiger, Abbey Senczyszyn

Welcome – Marco

New Items

Over Passes on Highway – Kevin

Due to the difficulty in crossing, Kevin questioned if the University had ever considered the idea of an overpass on the US-41 highway by Wadsworth Hall.

Gregg reported that in 2006, U. P. Engineering conducted a study. Options included:

- At grade crossing – median
- Pedestrian bridge
- Tunnel
- Raise road – have bridge underneath
- Make US-41 into a tunnel
- Another building (like Dow)

Gregg also reported that meetings were held and the idea of raising the road and having two pathways below was being discussed and moving forward. It would have been a 2 ½ million dollar project with MDOT sharing in part of the cost. Then Civil Engineering conducted a study and the result was if the road was built up it would cause a “Big Noise Issue” throughout campus. At that point it was put on hold.

It was commented that in order for an overpass/bridge/etc. to be used it has to be convenient.

It was questioned if there has been assessment on the risk posed to students when they currently cross the highway. It was commented that in the past when there were two lanes it was more of a problem but the danger has significantly dropped because with one lane the traffic is moving slower and there is a lot of signage in that area.

A student commented that crossing at Michigan Tech feels safer than it does at other Universities they have attended.

Gregg reported the long term plan is if buildings are built they will be connected.

Senate Proposal – Jon

Jon reported through email that Jenn Winikus (GSG), Dan LaForest (USG), and he were drafting a Senate proposal to include a grad student and an undergrad student on the Ombuds search committee. This way future searches will have two members instead of just the one they currently have.

The Student Commission members commented that they would like to hear more regarding this proposal and they would also like to have Jon report what the role/duties of an Ombuds are.

Monthly Student Commission Discussion

After discussion, it was decided to keep bi-monthly meetings for the spring semester and if need be, meetings will be canceled if there are not agenda items.

Parking/Tickets – Michael

Michael questioned if a section of the commuter lot could be designated overnight parking. He often stays overnight on campus and he has to leave the lab and move his vehicle. Gregg will discuss with Angie Kolehmainen, Manager Husky Motors, Transportation Services & Resources.

Michael reported that if a student has not paid their parking tickets in 30 days their Banweb is turned off. He thought a more generous time frame should be given (end of the semester). Gregg will also discuss this with Angie.

Lynda has invited Angie to the February 12th meeting.

Grades Policy – Michael

Michael questioned if a grade has been found to be incorrect how long does a student have to correct it?

Lynda did some research and here is the link regarding “Policy on Correcting Student Grades and Retention of Student Work” <http://www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/policies/p310-1.htm>

University Innovation Fellows – Josh

Josh reported that he is in the University Innovation Fellows program. He explained it is a virtual program and it has students from across the country who are involved.

Josh was wondering where to go on campus to find more entrepreneurial support. It was questioned if there is a new entrepreneur office on campus and if Jim Baker’s area would be supporting this. Lynda will contact Jim to find out.

It was also suggested that Josh contact the Career Services office for more ideas.

Promotion of Student Commission

Marco commented that during the fall semester the Student Commission did not have as many ideas from students as in the past so he thought the Commission should be promoted more.

He asked the members present for suggestions/ideas/feedback:

- Have GSG and USG promote the Student Commission at their meetings
- Is there a budget for marketing?
- Promote at K-Day
- EDS
- Student Newsbrief
- Table at Undergrad Student Orientation
- Talk to enterprises
- Send out an email to student orgs at the beginning of the week
- Students present had not heard of the Student Commission until recently
- Profile a student and their issue in the Lode
- Provide food!

Marco passed around a table tent that he had designed. He will send to Les and Lynda for their final approval. Lynda will print and distribute to the MUB and Dining Halls.

Les will include a Student Commission promotion in his next email to students and will inquire to see if the Lode will do an article, possibly interviewing a few students.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2015, at 2:00 pm in the MUB, Alumni Lounge A.