

**Student Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 10, 2014**

**Present: Autumn Channey, Les Cook, Lynda Heinonen, Reginald Hicks, Judy Klutts, Steve Knudstrup, Shreya Kumar, Ellen Marks, Zachary Mauerman, Rachel Morrison, Travis Pierce, Jon Riehl, Brenda Rudiger, Matthew Watrous, Renee Wells, Chris Wojick**

**Welcome – Shreya**

**Updates**

**Laptop Program**

Jon reported that the Engineering Undergrad Computing Student Forum was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 5-6pm in U115. Approximately 100 students attended. At the meeting the committee summarized the three scenarios.

- Option 1 – Hard requirement – required to purchase a laptop
  - A specific laptop would not have to be purchased but rather the laptop would have to have certain specifications
- Option 2 – Soft requirement – strongly recommend that students purchase a laptop
- Option 3 – Status quo

At the forum approximately 80 students participated with iclickers to give feedback. The results were:

- Option 1 – 25% in favor
- Option 2 – 25% in favor
- Option – 50% in favor

Jon reported that the committee received a lot of good feedback at the forum and will include it in their recommendation to the Dean of Engineering.

Comments and Questions at the Student Commission meeting included:

- What students would be required to purchase? *Students majoring in Engineering*
- What about the Engineering Management students? *This is a Business and Economics major*
- When graduate students were polled they were mixed on their responses but commented that they would be open to the program if it was an opt in program and not mandatory
- How would laptops be used in the classrooms?
- Rather than creating a new program the University should come up with laptop recommendations for students
  - Students often ask for recommendations before they arrive and the University could provide them with specs
- What if students are required to purchase a laptop and then the instructors do not use them in classroom?

- Faculty should be polled if they will use laptops in classroom
- Expressed concern about totally relying on laptops. What if they are not working and there are not any computer labs for backup?
- What is the underlying push for this program? *The charge came from the Dean of Engineering along with discussion from IT administrators. IT needs to purchase new computers or put funds into wireless. They need to decide which way to go.*
- How would computing fees be affected?
- What if IT doesn't know how to support laptops?
- Wireless has to be improved
- What about warranties?

If implemented the program would begin in the fall of 2015. If you have any more suggestions, comments, or questions please email Jon at [riehlj@mtu.edu](mailto:riehlj@mtu.edu).

Jon reported the committee is meeting on April 14 to come up with a recommendation. He will report back to the Student Commission.

Rachel complimented Jon on a job well done on getting the word out to the students regarding this program!!

### **Blue Light Stanchion Phones**

Zach reported that the proposal was passed at USG.

Jon reported that the sub-committee received an email from Provost Seel that he and Dave Reed have brought the proposal to upgrade the blue light stanchion phone to the budget team. Seel and Reed are in the process of following up with Public Safety and the Vice President for Administration to evaluate options.

Les commented that he will discuss this with the Executive Team. Les wants to make sure all of the options are reviewed before moving forward.

This will be kept on the agenda for fall of 2014.

### **New Items**

#### **E-Cigarettes Proposal – Jon**

Jon reported he is working on amending the existing policy, Board of Control Policy 12.2.1 to read:

All tobacco use as well as use of electronic cigarettes is prohibited except where approval is granted by the Vice President for Administration.

Jon asked for comments. They included:

- Didn't think they should be used in buildings
- Need to be cautious that they really are not harmful (no matter what the advertising says)
- The University is already tobacco free shouldn't this be included?
- Should this be expanded to include vapor products of any kind?

### **Sufficient Notice of University Closure Proposal – Jon**

Jon reported he is working a new proposal. It reads:

Any closure of Michigan Technological University shall be declared a minimum of two-hours before the closure period through the Michigan Tech Safety First Alert system. This minimum notice does not apply to emergency closures including, but not limited to, bomb threats and shootings.

Les commented that he would not recommend that a specific policy be put into place but rather develop specific guidelines and then do a better job of communicating with students, faculty, and staff. He will discuss this with the Executive Team this summer.

It was commented that if students, faculty, and staff feel threatened by weather conditions they can make arrangements with their instructors and supervisors.

### **Student Health and Insurance Forum – Shreya**

Shreya reported GSG is hosting a Student Health and Insurance Forum and encouraged students to attend.

#### **Student Health Insurance forum:**

Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 11:00 am  
ME-EM 112

Topics of discussion:

- Student health insurance
- Health facilities available to students
- Student and families health and wellness

Panelists:

Amber Bennett (Counseling Services)  
Bonnie Gorman (Dean of Students)  
Melissa Vertin (Physician's Assistant, Portage Health)  
Karen Hext (Manager of Benefits, HR)  
Elise Bur (Administrative Assistant, Portage Health)  
Renee Hiller (Director, HR)  
Shannon Richter (MD, Portage Health)  
Whitney Boroski (Coordinator, Health and Wellness)

Submit questions that you have for the forum using the GSG email id <gsg@mtu.edu> or the contact form on the GSG website <http://gsg.students.mtu.edu/contact.html#> or the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GraduateStudentGovernment>. Questions also welcome during the forum.

### **Graduation**

Please let Lynda ([lheinone@mtu.edu](mailto:lheinone@mtu.edu)) know if you are graduating so she can keep the lists updated.

### **April 24 Meeting**

After discussion, it was decided that the April 24 Student Commission meeting will be canceled.

### **Summer Meetings**

After discussion, it was decided to hold a Student Commission meeting in August. At that meeting the group will review the results from the 2014 Student Satisfaction survey.

### **Survey**

Les reported that in the next few weeks, current students, faculty, staff, alumni, and prospective students will receive a survey to find out their thoughts and feelings regarding Michigan Tech. He asked that people take the time to fill out the survey.

### **Alumni Reunion**

Brenda invited the students present to attend the Pasty Picnic during Alumni Reunion (August 7, 2014). If you are in town during the reunion, please contact Brenda at [brudiger@mtu.edu](mailto:brudiger@mtu.edu) to get complimentary tickets to the event.

### **Thank You**

Les thanked everybody for their active participation during the 2013-14 school year.

### **Fall Meeting Dates**

- Thursday, September 11, 2014, 2:00 pm, MUB Alumni Lounge A
- Thursday, September 25, 2014, 2:00 pm, MUB Alumni Lounge A
- Thursday, October 9, 2014, 2:00 pm, MUB, Ballroom A1
- Thursday, October 23, 2014, 2:00 pm, MUB, Alumni Lounge A
- Thursday, November 13, 2014, 2:00 pm, MUB, Alumni Lounge A
- Thursday, December 11, 2014, 2:00 pm, MUB, Alumni Lounge A

Lynda will add these to the Student Commission member's calendars when the dates get closer.