

**Student Commission Meeting  
Thursday, September 10, 2020  
Zoom Meeting**

**Present: John Frischmon, Marc Geborkoff, Bonnie Gorman, Tim Griffin, Lynda Heinonen, Beka Horsch, Joel Isaacson, Mia Kempainen, Gail Kotajarvi-Gerard, Margaret Landsparger, Dan Liebau, Pattie Luokkanen, Michael Maurer, Zoe Quinn, Malissa Sanon, Lauren Spahn, Matthew Weekley, James Whittaker**

**Welcome, Brief Overview of Student Commission, and Introductions**

**Updates**

**Status of MEEM Women's Bathroom Project - Michael**

During the 2019-20 academic year, the Student Commission had received a complaint about the number of women's restrooms in the MEEM building (or lack of them). Dan will check what the status of this is but he feels this project has been set aside due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was also commented that the M&M Building way-finding signage that Facilities Maintenance and Engineering had committed to has been tabled because of the pandemic.

**Maintenance Projects Completed – Dan**

Dan reported the following projects have been completed over the summer months:

- The Cliff Drive sidewalk connection was made.
- The bike repair station near the MEEM has been reinstalled.

**New**

**Food Access for Students Who Have to Isolate/Quarantine - Lauren**

Lauren reported that at a recent USG meeting, discussion had taken place regarding students who may not have access to food if they are self-isolating or quarantined (for example international students or students who do not have roommates). She questioned how to ensure they are taken care of? Is it possible to work through Husky FAN?

Bonnie commented that students can now order what they want from the food pantry rather than entering the space. If students are under quarantine/isolation they can have a friend pick it up for them or the Dean of Students Office will try to find somebody to deliver. At the present time the DOS Office has not been asked to do this and Bonnie questioned what the process would look like. Would it be on a volunteer basis, set up on the website with people volunteering to deliver food? Lauren will bring this back for discussion at the next USG meeting.

It was commented that the language on the Husky FAN page will have to be updated along with a confidentiality statement and risk piece included.

Bonnie also reported that students living in congregate living situations can make arrangements with Dining Services to come up with a meal plan (students need to include food allergy information). It was questioned if there is a limit on the number that can work with Dining. Bonnie thought the larger groups could work with Dining Services whereas the smaller groups could go through the pantry.

#### **“Keep Your Distance” Sandwich Boards - James**

James commented that he'd like to have sandwich boards around campus to remind students to social distance. Dan reported that they are in the process of getting yard signs (he shared a picture of the signs) printed and they will be placed between the Clock Tower and the Walker Building.

It was thought that some of these signs will be delivered to the Registered Student Organization Office and they will be available for groups to use at their events. They are asking the groups to return the signs once they are done with them.

#### **Use Crosswalk Signs – James**

James commented at the beginning of the fall semester there seems to be a need for additional signage about using the crosswalk and sidewalks and he questioned if additional signage could be placed around campus.

James commented that this is more of a beginning of the semester problem because of the first-year students being unfamiliar with campus. He also realizes that snow complicates the signage issue.

Dan commented that signage on US-41 is tricky because the highway belongs to the State of Michigan. Although the University can apply for a change with a MDOT Right-Away permit. It was suggested that the area should be reviewed before any changes are requested. James volunteered to review the area with other students and then make recommendations on what additional signage should be placed on campus.

Marc volunteered to reach out to the State of Michigan representative to discuss this. Marc and James will work together on this project.

#### **Theta Tau Beta Concerns – James**

James questioned what kind of resources are available to these students. Bonnie commented that they have available all of the resources that other students who live off-campus. Bonnie listed some of the things that were done over the summer months.

- Communications on what expectations were for the school year.
- Town Halls for new and current students.
- Print Piece that all students received.

James questioned what happened if they are in isolation. Bonnie commented that the Dean of Students Office is working with individual students and then providing offers of support and they would be included in this.

### **Recycling - James**

James commented that currently recycling is piling up and questioned how this is being handled with the COVID-19 pandemic. Tim reported they are in the process of hiring students to collect the material. Dan commented that they are struggling with both garbage and recycling because the volume is so much higher than normal. He also commented they have created a schedule for the academic buildings but should be on track soon for the halls. Tim commented that they are currently picking up recycling three times a week from the residence halls.

It was questioned if there needs to be messaging to encourage students how to process both garbage and recycling properly.

Dan reported they had received a grant for a food compactor but it has not been deployed yet because of the pandemic. Dining Services is delivering food three times a day to students in isolation so that is where their focus is now.

### **Upcoming Meetings – Bonnie**

Bonnie asked that the students go back to their organizations and ask for concerns that their constituents may have. The Student Commission wants to improve the experience for all students, faculty, and staff. If you have agenda items please forward them to Lynda (lheinone@mtu.edu).

### **Thank You – Dan, Mia, and Bonnie**

Dan commented that he wanted to thank everybody for the great job they are doing and to let them know how much it's appreciated.

Mia also commented that the majority of students have been very, very good and they also really appreciate it in the Library.

Bonnie commented that she sees it across campus that people are following the rules and she encouraged everybody to keep it up!

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 2:00 pm. All of the fall meetings will be held by Zoom.

### **2020 Fall Meeting Dates**

- Thursday, September 24 - Zoom
- Thursday, October 8 - Zoom
- Thursday, October 22 - Zoom
- Thursday, November 12 - Zoom
- Thursday, December 10 - Zoom