

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 22, 2016**

Present: Jacob Cavins, Jonathan Davey, Johnny Diaz, Lynda Heinonen, Bobby Lawrence, Josh Marshall, Erin Matas, Kyle McGurk, Travis Pierce, Kathy Pintar, Brenda Rudiger, Sam Willard, Jiongxun (Justin) Zhang

Welcome – Jacob

Updates

Voter Registration - Jacob

Jacob reported the following regarding voter registration:

- 100 students signed up at K-Day
- Registration forms are available at the USG Office (113 MUB)
- Students can register to vote while they attend Michigan Tech and this will allow them to vote locally
- A person is able to register to vote up to one month before the election
- The Secretary of State Mobile unit was on campus on September 19
 - 82 voter registrations and six other transactions were handled

Town Hall Meeting-Renter's Rights – Jacob

Jacob reported that USG and GSG are working together to hold a Renter's Rights Town Hall meeting this fall semester. He asked for suggestions on who should serve on the panel. One suggestion was somebody from the Houghton City Council.

He also reported there is a Town Hall planning meeting tonight regarding the presidential candidates at 7:00 pm in MUB 106.

Jacob will report back at the next meeting regarding these two Town Hall meetings.

Skate Board/Long Board Rack – Jacob

Jacob reported that he and another USG member are working on a schematic/draft for a skate board/long board rack. He will bring to an upcoming Student Commission meeting.

Textbooks – Erin and Josh

Josh commented that he working with Dr. Kerfoot to possibly present the idea of a textbook drive to the University Senate. Josh would like the Library to be responsible for collections of the textbook. Erin expressed concern regarding storage, processing, staff time, logistics, etc. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that Josh and Erin will meet to discuss logistics and then Josh will put together a proposal for the Library Director.

New Items

Campus Infrastructure – Josh

Josh commented that he would like there to be a plan to roll out fiber optics throughout the University. He commented that Daniell Heights is running off of something that isn't even broadband.

Johnny reported that IT is undergoing a multi-year renovation project throughout the Heights which includes some of the infrastructure. Fiber optic is being laid and all wireless communications is being moved to their network.

It was reported that students have been pleased with the remodel in the lower Heights. The upper Heights will be completed in July 2019.

Johnny reported that the Forestry building is currently in Phase 3 and hopes it will be completed soon. Then Phase 4 will have to be bid and contracted out.

Daniell Heights Waiting List – Jacob

Jacob reported that the waiting list has been growing because of the increase in graduate students and asked "what are the plans for housing?" Travis reported that he will be meeting with Bonnie Gorman and Les Cook to determine "what is next?" He would like to see a solid housing master plan for Michigan Tech. The Executive Team will need to determine how the University moves forward.

The current waiting list at Daniell Heights is over 400. Travis explained that while the list is accurate it is not reflective of what the demand is (for instance a number of co-tenants could be on the list and when they come to the top of the list they decline and go back to the bottom of the list).

Justin said that students would like an estimate of how long they will have to wait to secure housing at Daniell Heights. Travis responded that they cannot give estimates but students can check where they are on the waiting list.

Currently there are 350 apartments and the majority of students living there are graduate students. There are only 4-5 faculty/staff who reside in Daniell Heights.

Contract Holder – Justin

Justin reported that students have expressed concern that only one person has all of the rights and responsibilities when they are renting in Daniell Heights. It was suggested that GSG, USG, and IRHC meet to discuss a possible co-tenant "Bill of Rights". Travis commented that he would be willing to meet with them if they need additional help.

Biker - Justin

Justin reported that a biker was almost hit by a car and questioned if there was a safer way to travel. It was commented that reflectors were distributed to students and would it be possible to get them handed out again. Lynda reported that Bonnie Gorman had distributed the reflectors in the fall of 2015. She will discuss this with her.

McNair Hill – Bobby

Bobby reported that it is scary walking down the McNair Hall hill because of bikers and skateboarders. He questioned if lines could be painted to indicate a separation for bikers and pedestrians. Travis reported that there are signs posted next to Lot 15 and near the McNair Hill that state “no bikes/skateboards” but the University has no set rules regarding riding bicycles or skateboards on the sidewalks.

Prince’s Point – Kyle

Kyle reported that Prince’s Point needs some attention. Garbage is strewn around and people are burning pallets (this leaves nails around after they are burned). There is a small garbage can on-site but it was suggested that a large one should be placed there instead. It was questioned if Prince’s Point is on Facilities Management schedule to clean-up. The sign (listing the rules) will have to be updated because of the logo but it was commented that Prince’s Point doesn’t need more rules but rather enforcement of the current ones. It was suggested that this could be discussed at the next meeting when a Facilities Management rep is present. Also Travis will bring this up at the Residence Life meeting to remind students not to take pallets from the loading docks. Public Safety does patrol the area.

Bus Stop - Justin

Justin reported that there is not a schedule in the bus shelters. There is one inside the Memorial Union Building but not in the shelters. Lynda will contact Facilities to see if a schedule could be placed in each of the shelters.

Great Meeting – Travis

Travis commented that it was a great meeting and nice to see students bringing concerns and ideas to the table.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 2016, at 2:00 pm in Ballroom A1, MUB.

Fall Meeting Dates

- Thursday, October 13, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- Thursday, October 27, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- Thursday, November 10, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB
- Thursday, December 8, 2:00 pm, Ballroom A1, MUB