

**Student Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 26, 2013**

Present: Chris Cena, Les Cook, Emmett Golde, Bonnie Gorman, Lynda Heinonen, Mike Johnson, Beth Lunde, Judy Klutts, Steve Knudstrup, Shreya Kumar, Ellen Marks, Zachary Mauerman, Mary Mongeau, Dave Nordstrom, Margo O'Brien, Travis Pierce, Kathy Pintar, Brenda Rudiger, Tim Ward

Welcome – Chris and Shreya

New Items

Text Messaging to Students from the University – Beth, Bonnie, Emmett

Beth, Bonnie, and Emmett attended the meeting with the express purpose of eliciting feedback on the idea of the University text messaging students. Beth asked if students would like to receive text messages from the University and if so what type of messages would you like to receive. Comments included:

- Great idea
- Students should be able to opt in or opt out
- Students should be able to choose to be part of the service
- Customizable
- Provide several boxes to choose from
 - Sports
 - By departments
- Reminders would be a nice service but it would be hard to get instructors to do this
 - It was questioned if reminders could be setup in Canvas
- Should not be mandatory

Beth then asked the students to rate this service on a scale of 1-10. Comments included:

- 10 if it does not raise tuition
- Not interested if it raises tuition
- 8 ½

Les commented that if the University decides to move forward with this they will probably pilot a small number of items to try out and it would be separate from any emergency messages.

It was commented that if students can choose to opt in or out it is not a foolproof way to cover all of the students whereas mass emails go out to all of the students.

Chris volunteered to bring this idea up with USG. Steve commented that the MUB Board already does this and it has gone well and recommended that if the University decides to move forward they should discuss this idea with them.

Bonnie commented that this is a preliminary conversation and if the University does decide to move forward it is at least a year or more away from being implemented.

Student Emergency Contacts – Beth, Bonnie, and Emmett

Bonnie reported that the University currently has a Safety First Alert on campus and that over 6,000 active students are participating in the system (this allows the University to contact the student if there is an emergency on campus). If students do not choose to opt in or out a hold is placed on their account.

Bonnie also reported that currently the University has emergency contact information for approximately 3,000 students and was concerned that this number is only half of the student body. Bonnie questioned the students present for their thoughts about placing a hold on the student's account if they do not fill out the emergency contact information in Banweb.

Comments included:

- Good idea
- Makes a lot of sense
- Do not allow them to register until information is completed

Bonnie commented that for the 2013-14 academic year the University will plan to put an announcement in Banweb asking students to fill voluntarily fill out their emergency contact information. For 2014-15, they will work on making it mandatory and tying the Safety First and Emergency Contact information together.

Cigarette Butts on Campus – Chris

Chris reported that he has received complaints that due to the fact that the canisters for cigarette butts have been removed from outside of buildings there are a lot more cigarette butts on the ground and questioned what to do about this. Travis commented that if they know the location extra notices can be put out and Facilities Management can be contacted to remove the cigarette butts.

Les commented that he will include a reminder about the new smoking policy in his upcoming email to the students.

Updates

Progress on Library Projects – Ellen

Ellen reported that approximately 25% of the computes have been installed and in three weeks all of the computers and new furniture should be installed. She reported that the printing system needs to be improved. Mary reported that signs are being posted that show the progress of the project. Les suggested the Library create a thermometer of the 14 phases and show where they are in the process.

Shreya commented that students have complained because department's labs have closed and because the library is not 24 hour accessible yet the students do not always have access to a lab. Les reported that Walt Milligan said no labs have been closed yet. Chris volunteered to look into this and Shreya will find out which labs the students reported to have closed.

Les asked the students "How is it going with the new library project?" Comments included:

- Love what is there
- Overcrowded
- A lot of compliments of facility
- Complaints about the process
 - No alerts or news about changes
- Concern about labs during peak times

Textbook Option in Banweb – Chris

Chris will report back when he has the information.

Graduate School Concerns

Shreya reported the following concerns by the graduate students. They included:

- Daniell Heights Bus
 - Another bus shelter should be constructed
- Health Insurance Concerns
 - Concern about dental plans
- No legal counsel services for students

Legal Counsel Services for Students

The committee discussed that the closest legal aid available to assist students is based in Marquette and they will not assist International students.

Les commented that USG and GSG should discuss the possibility of working together to contract with a local lawyer to have on retainer.

It was reported that Michigan State University is not willing to help as much as in the past because of time and resources.

Husky Motors - Les

Les questioned the group if the group would like to invite Facilities Management to attend an upcoming meeting to give an update on Zipcars, bus routes, size of buses when snow arrives, etc. Lynda will contact Kerri Sleeman to arrange.

Student Concerns/Complaints – Les

Les reports that when the Board of Control visits campus they meet with a group of students to listen to their concerns/complaints. Les reported that Janet Hayden has a list of these concerns and complaints and he will bring it to the next meeting.

Les asked Chris and Shreya to go through their lists and bring to the next meeting any concerns/complaints they feel are relevant to this group.

Student Commission – Les

Les commented that the Student Commission has made a lot of progress over the years and the members should be proud of their accomplishments.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2013 at 2:00 pm in Alumni Lounge A, MUB.