

**Student Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 24, 2013**

**Present: Dan Bennett, Chris Cena, Les Cook, Jennifer Fuller, Lynda Heinonen, Judy Klutts, Steve Knudstrup, Shreya Kumar, Ellen Marks, Mary Mongeau, Rachel Morrison, Dave Nordstrom, Margo O'Brien, Travis Pierce, Brenda Rudiger, Kerri Sleeman, Sarah Stoolmiller, Steven Steinhoff**

**Welcome – Chris**

**Updates**

**Update on Library Project – Ellen**

Ellen reported over the Thanksgiving break a whole new printing system will be installed in the Library. It will include high volume/robust Xerox printers on every floor. In addition there will be color printers (with scanning capabilities) on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors.

In addition, in the next few weeks 25 additional computers will be installed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

Ellen reported that some problems with quiet/silence have been reported on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and asked for feedback from the group. Feedback included:

- It is still a problem – more so later in the day
- Groups migrate to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to do group work
- Last year every floor was quiet – not so quiet this year
- Quiet should be enforced
- It is hard to find a space in the Library to do group projects

Ellen reported that they will focus on the following:

- They will monitor 3<sup>rd</sup> floor more
- Instruction rooms are available for student use
  - Especially after 5:00 pm and on weekends
- They will re-visit the different zones at the end of the semester
  - Furniture is easily moved
- They are holding a luncheon for graduate students and are discussing having Open Houses for the undergraduate students
- Contact Ellen Marks ([ebmarks@mtu.edu](mailto:ebmarks@mtu.edu)) with any suggestions/concerns

Comments about the new Library setup included – great, awesome, and good energy!!

It was reported that there seems to be some confusion as to who controls the space once IT removes the computers from the department's labs. Les commented that once computers are re-located the departments "own" the space. Les volunteered to discuss with Walt Milligan (Chief Information Officer) and Max Seel (Provost) that there doesn't seem to be communication between IT and departments.

It was suggested that once this has been resolved that the communication to the students should come from the faculty chair.

### **Facilities Management Update – Kerri**

Kerri distributed and reviewed the Zipcar rules and policies.

Kerri also distributed and reviewed the Michigan Tech Zipcar summary as of 11/14/2013.

Kerri reported that the University has two Zipcars. One is parked at the MUB and one at Wadsworth Hall. Zipcar has expressed concern that the cars are being returned to the wrong locations and it is causing confusion for the company. Zipcar has requested that the cars be parked at the same location so they do not get mixed up. It was questioned if the Wads car or the MUB car gets more usage. Kerri reported that she is not able to determine those numbers. After discussion, it was decided that rather than move the cars to one location a few different ideas will be tried first. They include:

- Ask Zipcar to place their request to return the car to where it was picked up in a more prominent place
- Facilities Management will place stickers in the car reminding people to return their cars to the same place as they picked them up

Kerri reported the parking gates have been up since the spring semester but if you compare ticketing from last October to this October it is down (they did issue twice as many warnings in September 2013). It was questioned if it was better monitoring of the lots or higher ticket fees. Kerri thought it probably was a combination of the two. Kerri will bring the parking violation rates to the next meeting.

### **New**

#### **Parking Ban and 24/7 Library – Chris**

Chris reported that there has been concern expressed because the Library is now open 24/7 but parking is not allowed between 2:00-7:00 am. It was reported that students can contact Transportation Services (between 8:00 am – 5:00 pm) or Public Safety and request a special overnight parking pass. They will be directed as to where they can park (Lot next to Hamar House, meters between motorcycle pad and entrance to Lot 12, or Lot 3). They will be asked to provide their name, phone, license number, vehicle description. With the special overnight parking pass, students are allowed to park in these spots between 2:00-6:00 am.

One of the students present commented that students did receive an email with all of this information.

It was questioned if the Library usage rises dramatically could one lot be designated for overnight parking.

It was questioned if Facilities Management could provide a schedule of the times they are plowing. Kerri commented that this proves difficult because of how much it snows and when varies.

### **Additional Emergency Phones on Campus – Chris**

Chris received a request that more “blue light” phones be placed around campus. It was questioned “How many people do not have cell phones and because of that is it necessary?”

Dan outlined the pros and cons of adding more phones. Pros included:

- Visual – feel safer
- Cell phone not available because it died
- Forgot cell phone

Cons included:

- Current blue light phones not being used

Dan reported that currently there is not funding for additional phones. He reported that a few years ago Brian Cadwell did a study on this subject and he will forward the results to Chris.

Dan volunteered to look into current usage of the blue light phones and report back at the next meeting.

### **Overcrowding on Buses – Chris**

Chris reported that there have been complaints from Daniell Heights residents about overcrowding on the buses especially when people are returning from Walmart or the grocery stores. Kerri commented that the rotation would have to be completely changed but they will review the schedule and report back to the committee.

### **Shuttle Service to/from Hancock – Shreya**

Shreya asked if it had been determined if shuttle service could be extended into Hancock. Kerri responded that currently that is not feasible due to light usage. She added that the City of Houghton has “on demand” service that will pickup students outside of the city. It was commented that if the students ride the bus inside the City it is inexpensive but is more costly if they go outside the city limits. Shreya questioned if they could survey the students to determine how much usage there would be and if high enough could the request to have shuttle service to Hancock be reviewed again? Kerri agreed to review those numbers.

Kerri reported that Facilities Management is working with the City of Houghton to make sure that the busses are stopping at all of the stops.

It was commented that at some universities the student body pays for bus service. Kerri commented that she would like to continue to see the University provide shuttle service free of charge to the students.

**Les' Email**

Les reported that he will be sending out an email soon to the students and if anybody had anything they wanted to share with the student body to forward their suggestions to him ([lpcook@mtu.edu](mailto:lpcook@mtu.edu)).

**Student Commission Member**

Les reported that Tim Wong a former Student Commission member visited campus last week and he was excited to see the changes to campus with a lot of them coming from the Student Commission. Les commented that the Student Commission members should be proud of their involvement with the committee and its accomplishments.

**Next Meeting**

After discussion, it was decided to leave the December 12, 2013, meeting on everybody's calendar but if there are not a lot of agenda items the meeting will be canceled.