

**Student Commission Meeting  
Thursday, February 27, 2014**

**Present: Dan Bennett, Chris Cena, Lynda Heinonen, Judy Klutts, Angela Kohlemainen, Marco La Manna, Dan LaForest, Carol Makkonen, Zachary Mauerman, Mary Mongeau, Rachel Morrison, Dave Nordstrom, Travis Pierce, Jon Riehl, Brenda Rudiger, Kerri Slemman**

**Welcome – Chris**

**New Items**

**Just in Case App – Lynda**

Lynda reported that that Dean of Students Bonnie Gorman wanted students to be aware of the “Just in Case” feature on the Michigan Tech app. Lynda distributed a handout explaining the app. Information included:

*Please take the time to download the new “Just in Case” app for Michigan Tech students! This app was designed as a mechanism to get you connected to resources in a time of need. If you do not have a smart device the information is accessible by visiting the mobile website address: [www.mtu.edu/just-in-case](http://www.mtu.edu/just-in-case). Our hope is that this app allows students quick access to the contact and resource information that they need when they are feeling overwhelmed, worried about a friend, have feelings of hurting themselves or someone else, or are looking for sexual assault resources.*

*Please help us spread the word to keep you and your fellow Huskies safe and take the steps to download this app to your phone so that you too can reach out to resources if the need ever arises.*

*The mobile app can be accessed by scanning the QR code below or by visiting the Michigan Tech app that has the “Just in Case” app available for download.*



Travis displayed the Michigan Tech app to the Student Commission and reviewed the information.

**Parking Lot Issues – Dan LaForest**

Dan reported that he has received numerous complaints about plowing in the parking lots (specifically lot 21).

Kerri commented that due to the large amount of snow that has fallen this year their work load has tripled, but they have not cut any services to the campus community. She cited that they grounds crew has logged in the following hours of unfunded overtime:

- December – 480
- January – 500
- February – 600

Kerri commented that they do appreciate the feedback and they need to be partners with the students, staff, and faculty. She asked that anybody who has comments, concerns, etc. to report it at the Facilities Management website.

<http://www.mtu.edu/facilities/maintenance/requests/>

Kerri suggested that Facilities Management should get together informally with the students to brainstorm. It was suggested they meet with IRHC. Kerri and Dan LaForest will work on arranging this.

#### **Overnight Parking – Dan LaForest**

Dan reported there while the Library is open 24/7 there is nowhere to park in the winter. He was reminded that students need to alert Public Safety that they will be parking overnight and they will be directed to a specific lot. Dan questioned if this could be advertised to the students. Facilities Management and the Library will continue to work together to publicize information. Facilities will place a short article in the Lode regarding this.

#### **IT Quotas – Dan LaForest**

Dan reported that currently students are only allowed two gigabytes of space on computers and questioned if the amount could be raised. Travis suggested that they use Google Drive. For privacy issues, Jon recommended students use the University Google Drive.

#### **University Closure – Jon**

Jon expressed concern about last week's short notice that the University was closing. He asked that the University give a two hour notice if they plan to close. The students present thought this was a good idea. Comments included:

- Bring the two hour notice idea to USG and GSG
- Concern was expressed about the liability of a two hour notice
- Have a two hour notice but include in the reminder that if you feel unsafe you can go home immediately
- If the University is closed include an explanation as to why it is closed
- Create a policy that school is closed when a certain wind chill is reached

Dan Bennett commented that no matter what the decision in regards to closing the University/or not closing there is somebody who complains. Dan commented that he will bring these suggestions to the ICT (Incident Command Team).

## Updates

### Transportation Services/Facilities Management – Kerri and Angie

Angie Kohlemainen distributed and reviewed a few updates from Facilities Management. They included:

*Some interesting facts about Zipcar and Transportation Services:*

*Did you know that the Zipcars and the shuttle service provided to all faculty/staff/students are sponsored by Transportation Services.*

*Did you know that in the past two months that the MTU shuttle van and the City of Houghton shuttle that runs on campus picked up more than 10,000 customers each!*

*Did you know that besides parking enforcement our enforcement officers are also doing customer assists throughout the year. For example, over the past month of chilly and snow heavy days our enforcement officers assisted 73 students/faculty/staff with dead batteries, flat tires and vehicles that were stuck in the snow. Brrrrrrrr*

*Zipcar has been doing extremely well. Our contract is coming due this summer and we would like to continue providing an affordable and convenient alternative to our faculty/staff/students who don't have a vehicle on campus, but we need your help. Please let me know of any ideas you have for marketing the Zipcar program. In the past year we have more than tripled our Zipcar membership and doubled our monthly reservations. The word is getting out that Zipcar is the way to travel! Please contact me at [amkolehm@mtu.edu](mailto:amkolehm@mtu.edu) or 487-3288*

Angie also reported the following:

- The shuttle service stayed open one hour after the University closed on February with the primary concern getting students back to their cars and residence
- One Zipcar is parked at the MUB and one at Wadsworth Hall
- The longer the Zipcars are around the more people seem to be aware of them
- Recently promotional postcards were put in the students mailboxes in the residence halls
- The Orientation staff will alert students and their parents about the availability of the Zipcars

Angie asked the Student Commission member for input on ideas to market the Zip Cars.

Suggestions included:

- Place table tents in the MUB and residence halls
- Cars should have snow tires on them (Angie thought they did but she will check)
- Put one car at Daniell Heights (the original plan was if there was a 3<sup>rd</sup> car they would place it at Daniell Heights – this will be discussed further)

Kerri reported that Angie will give the Student Commission an update and solicit feedback once a semester. She also commented that while Facilities Management is not always able to make changes they want people to know they are being heard.

### **Blue Light Stanchion Phones – Chris**

Chris reported the Blue Light Stanchion Phone Sub-Committee met yesterday to discuss what the next steps are to move forward with the phones.

Jon reported the committee will approach the Senate with a 15 minutes presentation on March 26. It was questioned if a proposal should be brought to USG and GSG. Jon commented that this would bring official support to the Senate. Jon also suggested as many as possible from the Student Commission should attend the Senate meeting to show support of the presentation.

### **Michigan Tech App – Judy and Chris**

Judy reported the Michigan Tech Dining app is fixed. Chris reported that the seating app is in the process of being fixed and should be finalized in the next month.

### **Library Hours during Winter Carnival**

Graduate student representatives complained to the library about our hours during the whole Winter Carnival period. The library agreed it was a mistake to shorten our hours on the Thursday and Friday of Winter Carnival. Next year we will have normal hours but will experiment by staying open until midnight; badge access between 8:00 p.m. and midnight. Prior to all exceptions to hours of operation, we will send a note to the graduate student listserv, to Facebook, to Tech Today and post it around the library. Our annual schedule and exceptions are always on our Web site.

### **Enjoy Spring Break!!**

### **Next Meeting**

The next Student Commission is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. in the MUB Alumni Lounge.