PARENTS ASSOCIATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL

BYLAWS

Amended: 3-20-16
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Article I: Name of Advisory Council | 3 |
| Article II: Mission | 3 |
|   • Section A---Objectives | 3 |
|   • Section B---Expectations | |
| Article III: Membership | 4 |
|   • Section A---Term of Office | 4 |
|   • Section B---Removal | 4 |
|   • Section C---Vacancies | 4 |
|   • Section D---Election and Appointment Processes | 4 |
|   • Section E---Composition of Executive Office | 5 |
| Article IV: Meetings | 5 |
|   • Section A---Voting and Quorum | 5 |
|   • Section B---Minutes | 5 |
| Article V: Standing Committees | 6 |
| Article VI: Amendments | 6 |
| Appendixes | |
|   • Appendix I: Executive Officer Positions and Descriptions | 7 |
|   • Appendix II: Non-Disclosure/Confidentiality Statement | 8-9 |
|   • Appendix III: UMass Amherst Photo Release Form | 10 |
|   • Appendix IV: Limited License | 11 |
|   • Appendix V: Member Guidelines | 12 |
|   • Appendix VI: OPS Volunteer Opportunities and Descriptions | 13 |
|   • Appendix VII: OPS Annual calendar of Events and Activities | 14 |
Bylaws

ARTICLE I: Name of Advisory Council

This association shall be known as the University of Massachusetts Amherst Parents Association Advisory Council a.k.a. UMAPA Advisory Council. The Council is administered by the Office of Parent Services.

ARTICLE II: Mission

UMAPA Advisory Council seeks to support the University of Massachusetts Amherst by involving parents/families in the college experience for the purpose of improving, promoting and advancing UMass Amherst and its mission, especially as it relates to student success and retention.

Section A – Objectives

The council specifically focuses on parent/student issues in order to enhance the undergraduate experience. The goals are to:

1. Provide avenues for parents/families to connect with and support each other;
2. Act as liaisons between all parents/families, students, UMass staff and administration;
3. Provide feedback on ways the University can better serve students and families;
4. Assist with program development, services, and other Office of Parent Services initiatives;
5. Serve as ambassadors on behalf of the university through volunteerism and other means.

Section B – Expectations

In order to become a member of the Council, any interested family member must:

1. Be a member of the UMass Amherst Parents Association (UMAPA) and subscribe to the parents’ e-mail listserv.
2. Attend the fall and spring meetings.
3. Participate in regular conference calls
4. Be willing to attend and assist with one or more of the following events: Summer and Winter Orientations, Fall New Students Orientation Move-in Day, Fall and Admitted Students Open Houses, and Family Weekend;
5. Be willing to recruit prospective Parents Association Advisory Council members;
6. Provide feedback to the Office of Parent Services regarding programs, services, and other UMass activities;
7. Commit to serve as a council member for two consecutive years;
8. Be willing to serve on committees; and
9. Abide by the ethical principles of UMAPA including the non-disclosure/confidentiality statement outlined in Appendix II.
ARTICLE III - Membership

UMAPA Advisory Council is composed of family members of full-time undergraduate students. The council shall consist of at least five members but shall not exceed 20 members and each member shall have voting power. Any parent/guardian of a full-time undergraduate student, who is capable and willing to commit their time and skills, can apply for Council membership. Applicants must be a parent or guardian of a currently enrolled full time undergraduate student and the student of said applicant must have at least two years of coursework remaining at the time of nomination to be eligible to serve on the Council. Anyone wishing to become a Council member shall complete a membership application form. Council officers shall actively engage in recruitment to better represent the larger population of the University.

Section A – Term of Office

General Council members are appointed to serve a two-year renewable term. In extenuating circumstances a council member can withdraw from the council by submitting a resignation letter or email to the Office of Parent Services. Officers (Chairperson(s), Chairperson-Elect, and Secretary) shall be elected for eighteen (18) months. An officer may not serve for more than two consecutive terms in the same position. No members shall serve beyond the graduation of their student, except to complete the term during which such graduation occurs.

Section B - Removal

Any Council member can be dismissed by not abiding by or fulfilling any of the following:

a. The expectations of the Advisory Council as stated in Article II, Section B
b. Non-disclosure/Confidentiality statement as stated in Appendix II
c. Other reasons deemed necessary by the Office of Parent Services

The member in question must be notified prior to the removal.

Section C – Vacancies

The Council shall continue to review and accept applicants to fill up to 20 seats. In the event a seat becomes available due to resignation, death, removal, or otherwise, such seat may be filled by a current UMAPA member through nomination and the next in line in the application pool. A simple majority vote is required for nomination. The filling of a vacant seat will count toward one term regardless of when the member starts serving.

The Council will accept new members during both fall and spring. New members will assume the duties of their appointment immediately afterwards.

Section D - Election and Appointment Processes

Any member of the Advisory Council may nominate themselves or others to serve as an officer and be elected by a simple majority vote.
Section E – Composition of Council’s Executive Office

Any member of the UMAPA Advisory Council is eligible to serve as an executive officer. The executive officers of the Council shall be: Chairperson (s), Chairperson-Elect, and Secretary. If no one wants to serve alone, co-officers can be designated. The Director of the Office of Parent Services shall serve as an ex-officio. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote, for a term of eighteen (18) months, at either the fall or spring meeting and shall assume their offices immediately following the meeting. Only Council members that are present shall be allowed to vote (exceptions shall be made based on extenuating circumstances). Officers may be reelected for a second term for the same position. An officer may not serve for more than two consecutive terms in the same position (see appendix I for position descriptions).

ARTICLE IV - Meetings

UMAPA Advisory Council shall meet bi-annually. The fall semester meeting shall occur at Family Weekend (in September or October). The spring semester meeting shall occur in March, the last Sunday of the University’s official Spring Break.

Bi-annual meetings shall occur on campus. Other meetings (online through webinar and telephone/video conferencing), however, may be called at the discretion of the Office of Parents Services in consultation with Council Executive officers. The Office of Parent Services shall provide advance notice (minimum 30 days) to the membership before any meetings can take place. On campus meeting and conference call dates and times shall be determined in advance by the Office of Parent Services and agreed upon by council members.

Section A – Voting and Quorum

Each Council member shall have voting rights. However, no voting by proxy shall be permitted. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of appointed members and decisions will commonly be made by consensus. Ex-officio members are not eligible to vote.

Section B – Minutes

The Secretary of the Advisory Council and the Assistant Director of the Office of Parent Services shall be responsible for keeping minutes and distributing them to Council members. In addition, they shall be responsible for providing agendas for all meetings ten (10) days prior to all meetings.

Minutes and agendas shall be stored in a secure website, and Council members shall have access to such site to review and approve the minutes. Minutes shall be provided within ten (10) business days after each meeting for review. Council members shall review and approve the minutes within five (5) business days thereafter. The Assistant Director of the Office of Parent Services shall send e-mail notifications to Council members when documents are added to the secure site.
ARTICLE V – Standing Committees

The Council shall create standing Committees as needed to carry out the task of the Council. Committees shall be of the size necessary to carry out their assigned tasks. Committees shall elect their own chairpersons/coordinators and shall decide how often to meet to perform assigned tasks. Depending on the nature and difficulty of assigned tasks, meetings can be done online, in person, or via conference call.

ARTICLE VI: Amendments

UMAPA Advisory Council bylaws shall be reviewed and amended annually by a simple majority vote of those members present. Any member may propose amendments to the bylaws. Recommendations shall be distributed to all members of the Council at least 30 days before the voting process takes place.

Appendixes

- Appendix I: Executive Officer Positions and Descriptions
- Appendix II: Non-Disclosure/Confidentiality Statement
- Appendix III: UMass Amherst Photo Release Form
- Appendix IV: Limited License
- Appendix V: Member Guidelines
- Appendix VI: OPS Volunteer Opportunities and Descriptions
- Appendix VII: OPS Annual calendar of Events and Activities

Bylaws adopted__________________________________________

Date

Bylaws amended__________________________________________

Date
UMAPA Advisory Council By-laws
Appendix I

UMAPA Advisory Council Executive Officer Positions

Council Chair (eighteen months term-subject to reappointment)

Duties/Responsibilities:

1. Lead and ensure the effective operation of the Council for eighteen months
2. Represent the interests and perspectives of the Council and UMass Amherst
3. Assist the Office of Parent Services in preparing agendas for all UMAPA Advisory meetings
4. Lead UMAPA Advisory Council meetings
5. Serve as primary parent/family liaison to the Director of the Office of Parent Services and UMass Amherst administration team.

Council Vice Chair- Elect (eighteen months-subject to reappointment)

Duties/Responsibilities:

1. Assist Council Chair in the accomplishment of their duties
2. Represent the interests and perspectives of the Council and UMass Amherst
3. Serve as primary liaison to the Director of the Office of Parent Services and the UMass Administrative team in the absence of Council Chair
4. Perform the duties of the Council Chair in their absence
5. Assume the role of Chair for the remainder of the unexpired term in the event the Chair is unable to complete their full term in office.

Council Secretary (eighteen months term-subject to reappointment)

Duties/Responsibilities:

1. Represent the interests and perspectives of the Council and UMass Amherst
2. Keep records of the Advisory Council voting process, minutes, attendance and correspondence
3. Ensure that proper notice is given of all meetings to members of the Council
4. Inform all Council members of events, volunteer opportunities, etc..

Social Media Administrators – 2 Voluntary Positions (appointment not required)

- Approve and accept members in a timely fashion
- Share the load equally
- Review post regularly for unwanted posts based on guidelines and to respond to questions/comments
- Respond to parent/family questions within 48 hours.
UMAPA Advisory Council By-laws
Appendix II

Non-Disclosure & Confidentiality Statement

This Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement, hereinafter called "Agreement", is by and between ____________________________, hereinafter called "Council Member", and the UMass Amherst Parents Association Advisory Council, hereinafter called "UMAPA Advisory Council", subject to the terms and conditions contained herein.

This Agreement is obtained to permit the protection of certain information deemed sensitive, confidential, and vital to the success of the UMAPA Advisory Council.

1) "Confidential Information" means (i) members contact information; and (ii) any other information that (A) if disclosed in tangible form, is marked in writing as "confidential" or with a similar designation; (B) if disclosed orally or visually, is designated orally at the time of disclosure as "confidential".

2) Council Member will be exposed to Confidential Information during the performance of their Council duties.

3) Council Member acknowledges and agrees that the disclosure of Confidential Information could be damaging and detrimental to the Council and its stakeholders.

4) Council Member may only use Confidential Information for the purpose intended and may only disclose Confidential Information on a need to know basis or to others bound to similar obligations of confidentiality or as may be required by law.

5) Council Member further agrees that biographical and contact information of Council members shall be held in strictest confidence and shall not at any time, or in any manner, be utilized by others for personal use or otherwise.
6) Council Member understands and acknowledges that any information provided to the University or its employees may constitute a public record and be subject to release in accordance with Massachusetts Public Records Law.

In addition, Council Member understands that the UMAPA Advisory Council retains exclusive rights to publish the name, biographical information, and pictures/video of Council Member on the UMass Amherst Office of Parent Services’ website, UMass Amherst advertising materials, or any other purpose that the University deems appropriate, as more fully set out in the UMass Amherst Photo Release Form (see appendix VI).

Agreed this ____________ day of _______________, 20__ __.

Full Name (please print): ______________________________________________________

Signature: ___________________________________________________________________
Appendix III
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Photo Release Form

For good and valuable consideration, I authorize the University of Massachusetts Amherst (“University”) and its agents to record photographs or other portraits or likenesses of me on film, video, photograph or any other medium. I further grant permission to use, reproduce, modify, distribute, and publicly exhibit such recordings, in whole or in part, without restrictions or limitation on the University’s World Wide Web site, UMass Amherst advertising materials, or in other official printed publications, electronic versions of the same publications, or any other purpose that the University deems appropriate. I acknowledge the University’s right to crop or treat the photograph at its discretion.

I release the University, its Trustees, officers, employees and agents from any liability whatsoever based on or related to its use of any photographs, portraits, or other likenesses of me in any medium and the use of my name or biographical information, including without limitation violation of rights of privacy, publicity, libel, defamation or any similar right, for the purposes described above. I further release the University, its Trustees, officers, employees and agents from any liability by virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration, optical illusion, or use in composite form, whether intentional or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the recording process, or any unintentional misspellings or inaccuracies. I waive any right I may have to inspect or approve any finished photographs, portraits, or other likenesses of me.

I am 18 years of age or older, and I am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below, and I fully understand the contents, meaning and impact of this release.

Date__________________________________

Full Name (please print) ________________________________________________________

Email address_______________________________________________________________________

Signature_______________________________________________________________
Appendix IV
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Limited License

The University of Massachusetts Amherst (“University”) hereby grants to ____________________________ (“Council Member”) a limited, non-exclusive, royalty-free, right and license to use the UMass Amherst Parents Association logo for University sanctioned promotions and events. No license is granted hereunder other than upon or in connection with the services and manner of use described in this License. No license is granted hereunder for the use of the University’s name, other logos, or marks for any purpose. Council Member shall not use the University’s name, logos, or marks in association with any third party trademarks in a manner that might suggest co-branding or otherwise create potential confusion as to ownership of the University name.

Nothing in this agreement shall give Council Member any right, title or interest in the University’s name, logos or marks, except the limited right to use the UMass Amherst Parents Association logo in accordance with this License and as described above. Council Member will not challenge the rights of the University to own its names, logos, or marks, nor attempt to procure any trademark registration with respect to the University’s names, logos, or marks.

Council Member will provide the University with samples of any proposed use of the UMass Amherst Parents Association logo for approval before use. Council Member will notify the University of Substantive change made to any pre-approved use.

Upon written notice from the University, Council Member will remove and/or revise any use of University’s name, logos or marks which the University, in its sole opinion, deems inappropriate, a potentially confusing as to ownership or may otherwise create potentially unacceptable risks to the University.

The University may revoke this License at any time, without cause, upon one day written notice.

Date_______________________________________________

Full Name (please print) _____________________________________________________________

Signature___________________________________________________________________________
UMAPA Advisory Council By-laws
Appendix V

Member Guidelines

As a council member you are encouraged to get involved as much as possible in Council activities. Here is a checklist to help you focus on the job of a council member:

- Know the mission and goals of the Advisory Council
- Support the work of the Council, the Office of Parent Services, and UMass Amherst
- Know the policies, guidelines, rules, and norms set forth by the Council
- Attend all meetings; if you must be absent, notify the Council Secretary and the Office of Parent Services well in advance. Arrange to connect with the Chair and Assistant Director to catch up on what is missed.
- Arrive at meetings on time and be prepared to discuss agenda items
- Actively participate in Council related activities, including serving on committees
- Speak for yourself when speaking at Council meetings (unless you have been designated by a group); keep to the subject under discussion, avoid judgmental statements, and take responsibility for the words and ideas you express
- Listen carefully to others and ask questions
- Speak out on ideas you favor/do not favor
- Help create an atmosphere of inclusion in which differences can be embraced
- Respect the rights and opinions of other Council members
- Realize that decisions are made only at Council meetings, therefore it is essential to attend meetings
- Evaluate Council actions on a continuing basis
- Volunteer with the Office of Parents Services on a regular basis
- Read information/materials posted on the Council’s electronic storage space
- Review the Office of Parent Services communication pieces including the calendar, UMatter booklet, website, and e-Newsletter and provide feedback on an annual basis
- Reach out to new members to welcome them and answer questions.
Volunteer Opportunities

Parents/families of current UMass students are actively involved in a number of volunteer programs within the University. These activities provide parents meaningful and enjoyable opportunities to connect with other parents, alumni, students, staff, and faculty. Below is a list of opportunities with descriptions.

**Fall Open House:** Talk with prospective students and their families about UMass Amherst from a parent’s perspective and distribute literature about the Office of Parent Services, UMAPA and the Advisory Council, and New Students Orientation (October).

**Fall Move-in and Orientation:** Greet new students and their families and share information with parents (August/September).

**Family Weekend:** Greet families; assist with registration; count participants; help host parent reception, etc. while enjoying specific events and activities (September or October).

**Spring Open House for Admitted Students:** Talk with admitted students and their families about UMass Amherst from a parent’s perspective and distribute literature about the Office of Parent Services, UMAPA and the Advisory Council, and New Students Orientation (February and April).

**Winter and Summer Parents Orientation:** Welcome families of newly enrolled students to the UMass community and assist with registration (December-January, June-July).
UMAPA Advisory Council By-laws
Appendix VII

Annual Calendar of Events and Activities

**December/January**
- Winter Parent Orientation

**February**
- Spring Open House

**March**
- Advisory Council Meeting

**April**
- Spring Open House

**June**
- Summer Parent Orientation

**July**
- Summer Parent Orientation

**August/September**
- Fall New Students Orientation Move-in Day

**September/October**
- Family Weekend
- Advisory Council Meeting
- Fall Open House (October)