UMAPA Advisory Council Fall Meeting

October 23, 2016

Minutes

Members present: Amy Lee, Anthony Fox, Anthony Tero, Benny Joseph, Kathleen Breck, Kathleen Small, Melissa Goldman, Mike Burk, Neena Verma, Ninette Marzouki, Pamela Meoli, Paulette Gonzalez, S. Abbitt Thomas, Shannon Cullagh, Tina Barsby, Seena Franklin

Members absent: Alison Phelan, Beth Uhl-Israel, Carolyn Edwards, Dave Venard, Ginger Merritt, Lainie Goodman-Okun, Mary Johnston Turner, Mimi Mumm, Peggy Schmidt, Peter Lee

Staff present: Elizabeth Cleary, Jeanne Horrigan, Rose Boulay

Featured speakers: Christina Williams, Assistant Director, Financial Aid Services; Tyron Parham, Chief of Police, UMass Police Department; David Vaillancourt, Senior Associate Dean, Dean of Students Office

Call to order & business items
The meeting began at 10:00 am with Kathleen Small, Ninette Marzouki, and Jeanne Horrigan presiding.

Council update: By-laws discussion was restricted to expanding Council membership from 20 to up to 30 so that all new members can be seated. Mike made a motion to expand the membership up to 30 members. Shannon seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Election of Officers: Neena Verma and Melissa Goldman were nominated to Co –Chair the Council starting May 2017. Amy Lee was nominated to serve as Chair Elect. Mike made a motion to elect Neena, Amy, and Melissa to serve as Council Executives for the above positions, respectively. Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion was passed. We congratulate our new executive officers and wish them well.

Since the current Council Executives’ term ends in Spring 2017, the new co-chairs will shadow Kathleen and Ninette for the remaining of the semester. We will revisit the Chair Elect position in March should anyone be interested in co-chairing that position as well. We will need to elect another secretary in March too since Seena’s daughter will also graduate in May.

Discussion Items

Direction of Advisory Council vs. members’ expectations: Jeanne asked existing members about the direction of the Advisory Council and whether it’s meeting their expectations. Council
members seem to enjoy being a part of this group. They are grateful to be called upon when needed and think that we’re heading in the right direction.

**Foster Care Initiative follow-up/consideration for next summer:** Mike thought the Foster Care went well considering it was the first year. The Facebook group generated a lot of interests. We had 21 families donating $1,385. We distributed gift cards ranging from $195-$205 to 7 students. Mike sent thank you cards to the families who donated. Great connections were made between the Dean of Student representatives and the students. Mike also reached out to MA DCF and they’ve shared our involvement with their staff/social workers.

The following suggestions were made:

- Expand beyond the Facebook group, such as sending out a mass email to all families
- Solicit help from Sororities and Fraternities
- Increase efforts by finding mentors for students
- Institute a “Trio” program to provide better support for not just Foster Care students but also 1st Generation and low income students
- Purchase bedding for these students through the Linens Program
- Increase networking opportunities
- Share concrete resources (furniture, etc.).

We will continue to discuss these ideas at the next conference calls.

**Non-member involvement on council committees/special projects:** Members raised concerns on whether or not non-members (UMAPA Members but not part of the Council) should serve on committees or special Council projects/initiatives. They all agreed that this has the potential of creating a pipeline for new member recruitment and getting more families involved. Council members would not necessarily seek non-members to help, but if a non-member shows an interest in getting involved with committee work that they would not be turned away. All members agreed.

**Family Weekend fee waiver for Council members volunteering/participating at Family Weekend:** Jeanne reported that OPS will waive the fee for Advisory Council members attending/participating/volunteering at Family Weekend. Council Members must complete the Family Weekend registration form for University Business Reporting purposes. OPS will only waive the registration fee but not any raffle ticket fees. Council members will be responsible for raffle fees if they purchased any.

**Campus Center Hotel UMass room for Family Weekend:** Jeanne also reported that OPS in collaboration with Hotel UMass will, in the future, provide one free room for one Council member during Family Weekend. How do we decide who should get the room? What should we take into consideration? The Special Events committee will discuss this further and send some ideas to Jeanne who will then talk to Hotel UMass to see what can be done.

**Committee Reports**

**Social Media: Facebook and Blog:** Since Mary was unable to attend the meeting, she sent in her report a few days prior. Kathleen/Neena reported on the Family to Family Facebook group. Members thought it was a great addition and that it has helped a lot of families. Kathleen will now link the blog to the FB group so that people can easily find it.
Mike also sent his Community Service/Outreach report prior to the meeting.

**New committee ideas:** Everyone agreed that there should be an Out of State/Transfer committee. Comments included the need to engage Stockbridge families and other affinity groups. Melissa suggested we partner with the Alumni Office to promote UMass. Jeanne will explore the possibilities with Undergraduate Admissions and the Alumni Office. We agreed to have further discussion in the future about a committee exploring out of state, first generation, international student families, and other underrepresented groups.

**Featured Speakers** – Christina Williams, Assistant Director from Financial Aid Services was our featured speaker. She talked about the FAFSA changes for the 2017-2018 academic year and handed out information.

Tyron Parham, Chief of UMass Police/Assistance Vice Chancellor and David Vaillancourt, Senior Associate Dean, Dean of Students Office were also present. They discussed off campus gatherings where alcohol is used heavily among students.

**Council Tasks**

**Actively participate in Council conference calls:** The next conference call is scheduled for November 1 at 5:30 p.m. Our December conference call is on December 6 also at 5:30 p.m.

**Review/update membership application for spring recruitment:** We will take a look at the application during a conference call and make changes.

**Host new member orientation (spring 2017):** We need someone to take on this task starting fall 2017. Whoever volunteers to do this will host a new membership orientation in February for new members

**Volunteer at university sponsored events:** Members are expected to volunteer at spring/summer events. The Winter New Students Orientation dates are: 12/15, 1/17, 1/18, 1/19, 1/20 all from 8-9 am. Please respond to the request to volunteer even if it is a no.

**Be actively involved in at least one committee:** Please look at the committee list and let us know of any changes or if you want to be added to a committee.

**Campus Update: South College Building**

Details on South College are available at [https://www.umass.edu/dcm/scaf](https://www.umass.edu/dcm/scaf).

Questions about this project should be directed to the UMass Design & Construction Management capital project manager, Henry Merriman, at 413-577-1722 or hmerriman@facil.umass.edu.

**Spring Meeting Date and time:** Council members will reconvene on campus on Sunday, March 19, 2017 – 12:00 noon to 2:30 pm – Location, TBA

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 pm.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Seena Franklin