Parents Advisory Council Meeting
October 4, 2015
10 am-12:30 pm

Members Present: Kathleen Small, Ninette Marzouki, Mary Chernak, Seena Franklin, Michael Burk, Tina Barsby, Cathy Harder-Bernier, Neena Verma

Members Absent: Benny Joseph, Kevin Crimi, Pam Meoli, Linda Sutherland, Sawsan Berjawi, Kathleen Breck

Staff Present: Jeanne Horrigan, Rose Boulay, Elizabeth Cleary

Featured Speaker: Sonya Satinsky, Ph.D., Director, Center for Health Promotion

Call to order & Business Items

The meeting began at 10 am with Jeanne, Kathleen Small and Ninette Marzouki presiding.

Introductions: Jeanne introduced her staff, Rose Boulay and Elizabeth Cleary. Each Council member introduced themselves, shared their student’s name, class year, and major. Members also discussed what sessions they found most helpful and interesting at Family Weekend.

Parent Advisory Council Clarification of Goals and Committees: Kathleen Small and Ninette Marzouki discussed the Council primary goals and the role of each committee. From there members discussed a variety of topics and the need to:

1. Recruit new Advisory Council members/volunteers and ensure visibility
2. Develop a summer transition session.
3. Be available for conference calls every month starting this month (October.)
4. Develop a program to provide support to independent undergraduate students (students who do not have parent/family support).
6. Develop a Facebook group for those parents who wish to exchange ideas and concerns with each other.
   a. Facebook liaisons: Kathleen Small and Neena Verma
Ideas for the future (when the Council has recruited a sizable number of parents):

1. Create more volunteer opportunities, primarily regional programs for out of state families
2. Offer more networking opportunities
3. Have a parent in every residence hall during Move-In day to welcome new parents/families.

Featured Speaker: The featured speaker was Sonya Satinsky, PhD, Director of Center for Health Promotion. She spoke about the Center’s mission and how it collaborates with other offices/departments to provide a healthy environment for UMass Amherst students.

New Council Member Applications: Council members approved the following individuals to serve on the Council for two years. New Council members will attend an inaugural meeting in March. Cathy Harder-Bernier motioned to approve all five applicants; Seena Franklin seconded the motion. There was no objection, hence motion carried.

Beth K. Uhl-Israel, Newton Highlands MA, Class of 2019
Ginger Merritt, Shanghai China, Class of 2019
Carolyn Edwards, Holyoke MA, Class of 2019
Peter Lee, Lexington MA, Class of 2019
Mary Johnston Turner, Waltham MA, Class of 2019

Group Conference Call: Council members will join in a conference call once a month for updates and follow-ups. Rose will send a google doc to Council members with possible days and times.

Next Meeting: Council members will reconvene on campus on Sunday, March 20, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Location is TBA.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Mary Chernak.