Parents Advisory Council Spring Move-In Meeting  
January 21, 2018  

Minutes

Members Present: Alison Phelan, Anthony Fox, Jennifer Getchell, JoAnn Roselli, Melissa Goldman, Kathleen Small, Leslie Mitchell, Melissa Goldman, Mercel Meredith Ault, Mimi Mumm, Ninette Marzouki, Patricia (Penny) Nichols-Cordero

Member On Skype: Terry Dubedo

Members Absent: Chuck Kaufman, Ginger Merritt, Mike Burk, Peter Lee, Seena Franklin, Shannon Cullagh, Neena Verma

Staff Present: Rose Boulay, Elizabeth Cleary

The meeting began at 10:30am with Melissa presiding. Melissa welcomed members and asked all members to introduce themselves. A special welcome was directed to Kathleen Small who is rejoining the Council after two semesters off. Discussion items included:

Revised Mission Statement
Melissa read the revised mission statement drafted by Chuck. Some changes were recommended. Members agreed to change retention to engagement to provide a more positive statement. They also agreed to keep the word liaison. Mimi moved to approve the revised mission statement with the changes; Anthony seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Diversity dialogue/conversation in Spring 2018
To continue with the diversity dialogue we started last fall, the Office of Parent Services plans to have some speakers at the March meeting to further educate Council members on this topic. Topics that might be discussed include issues affecting higher education such as DACA and Black Lives Matter; the student population that the University works with; and how the University manages controversial issues. Members will also be informed of university resources and where to find guidance when a situation comes up. We expect this dialogue to continue to evolve. Some members would like to talk about diverse clubs and how they are managed; and the University’s position on the right to freedom of expression of all groups.

New Member Orientation via conference calls
Melissa asked if members who started last year could comment on the New Member Orientation the Council has in place. Jennifer Getchell suggested that we implement a buddy system for new members – someone or a group of individuals who would be available to talk to and conference with new members either before or after the orientation to further answer questions. She thought new members would feel more comfortable talking and being at the first on campus meeting, and joining committees had they had more conversations with current members. Leslie also suggested
that Council members have their own group to “converse” either email/Facebook/SLACK. Mimi is not open to using Facebook but email is fine with her. Melissa and Leslie will continue working on that.

**Feedback on OPS Volunteer Form**
Chuck gave some feedback for the volunteer page. Everyone thought they were good feedback. Melissa still feels it takes too many “clicks” to get to our website, but realize that this won’t change anytime soon. Leslie recommended that we repost the Council and volunteer pages on the Facebook group so that they are seen more often.

**Designated person/people for Facebook Foster Care Initiative promotions**
Kathleen Small volunteered to coordinate the Foster Care Initiative promotions on the Facebook group. She will talk with Mike about timeline and how to proceed. The Council agreed that this task should fall under the Social Media committee’s responsibilities. The Outreach committee is responsible for the Foster Care Initiative, but the Social Media committee will do the promotions on the Facebook group.

**Rack City Thrift Shop**
Rose informed members of a student group on campus that is part of the Student Government Association Sustainable committee. One of the group’s goals is to encourage reuse of clothing. So they collect used clothing and make them available to students at a nominal fee. They started to sell in the Campus Center. Rose wanted to find out if members would be interested in donating to this group. The money raised goes back to sustainability projects on campus. Members thought it was a great idea but that there should be some guidelines on what to collect and when. They also thought we should start small, possibly only with the Council, then the Facebook group.

**UMass Family Weekend: October 19-21, 2018**
Jennifer asked if there was a way that OPS could block off hotels or places for committee members to stay overnight during Family Weekend. Rose stated that hotels room blocks will be available on the Family Weekend website and that she will mention Jennifer’s concern to Jeanne. Approximately 7-8 members said they would need to stay overnight for the various events during Family Weekend.

**Announcements**

**New Family Weekend committee liaison**
Jennifer Getchell will represent UMAPA at Family Weekend committee meetings—the first meeting is scheduled for January 31 at 10:30 am.

**Committee member list update**
Rose asked members to review the committee list and let her know if they’d like to change committees. Each member must be part of at least one committee.

**March Meeting date/time/location**
Our next meeting will be on March 18, 12noon – 2:30pm – Berkshire Dining Commons

Co-chair conference calls meeting all at 5:30pm
- February 13
- March 13
- April 3
- May 1

Monthly Advisory conference calls dates all at 5:30pm
- Feb. 28
- April 9
- May 7

**Committee Meeting**
Members broke into groups at 11:20am with instructions to meet in their subcommittees.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50am

*Alison Phelan, recording secretary*