Members Present: Brian Brady, Amy Chisholm, Bronwyn Cooper, Amy Hilbrich Davis, Terry Budebo, Gary Dougherty, Jennifer Getchell, Melissa Goldman, Patrick Hayes, Chuck Kaufman, Mimi Mumm, Penny Nichols-Cordero, Alison Phelan, Maureen J Provost, Joanne Roselli, Lisa Silletti, Tushar Walhekar, Michelle White

Members on Zoom: Mercel Meredith Ault, Marc Gilman, George Sanchez

Members Absent: Jeffrey Bennett, Joel Lord, Ninette Marzouki, Mary Millett, Kathleen Small

Staff Present: Rose Boulay, Jeanne Horrigan

Call to Order
The meeting started at 12:05 p.m. with Melissa presiding. She welcomed the new members and the group then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Advisory Council Overview
Melissa gave a brief overview of the Council including its accomplishments. It was created 4 years ago with the hope of partnering with families to provide the best undergraduate experience to students and families. The main goal is to provide ways for families to engage with each other and provide support to one another. It first started with 18 members. Two of them are still involved with the Council serving as Emeritus. 62 families have joined since then. In addition, the Council volunteered countless hours at University functions, created a Facebook group, which currently has 3,241 members, and a blog post with a new article uploaded once a month. They also collaborated with the Dean of Students Office in an effort to make the college experience a little bit easier for foster youths enrolling at the university by establishing an evergreen fundraising site where anyone affiliated with the university can donate. The Council has so far raised over $3,000 online from May 2018 to present; and $4,915 in gift cards the previous two years. They’ve contributed to Family Weekend by volunteering at different activities and by sponsoring a reception in collaboration with Auxiliary Services (2016, 2017, and 2018); a panel discussion called Dare to be Aware (2017); and Meditation sessions (2016, 2017). They look forward to continue their partnership with different departments across the university.

Family Weekend Update
15 members volunteered this year. Lisa thought it was a positive experience to be identified as a parent volunteer. Over 300 parents attended the parent reception. Jeanne said numbers are still being crunched, most events were well attended. They were very diverse as well. Preliminary reports indicated over 1100 families from all class years and 26 states attended this year. About 300 people attended the Chancellor’s reception. Athletic events were also well attended.

Old Business Update
Active Shooter Training for Students
According to Jeanne, active shooter training is available to students. However students make up a small number of who the Police Department actually trains. The only students who get the training are those that work for someone/department that requires the training, like NSO, Res Life, etc. The university received a grant and is now putting together a 7 minute training video. Although the training is short, the rationale behind it is to get some information in the hands of all as opposed to none at all. All state colleges will have access to the video and all students will be required to watch the video.
Council members agreed to be involved in the dissemination process once the video is available for viewing.

**Thanksgiving Host for Domestic Students**
There isn’t a Thanksgiving host program for domestic students. Traditionally students simply invite friends to their house to celebrate Thanksgiving.

**Blog Readership**
The Council can now pull stats for the blog. Rose will show Chuck where to find the link. What she recommends is for the Social Media committee to generate a report each month and share that report at each Council group conference call. That way it’s recorded in our minutes and everyone is informed.

**Committee Goals/Plans for 2018-19 Academic Year**

**Social Media: FB and blog**
Chuck asked members to identify their blog topic and email him with a potential article submission date. 12 articles are needed for the academic year. Council members are asked to pitch in. The Facebook group continues to grow and has been very helpful to members. Rose urged Council members (who can) to volunteer to monitor the group and pay attention to what’s being posted. The Council will continue to focus on the Facebook group and the blog before taking up any other new social media tasks.

**Community service/outreach**
Mimi reported on the committee’s conference calls and plans for the school year. They’ll continue to tackle food insecurity on the UMass campus; promote the Foster Care Student Success fund; work with DCF staff to support foster students; and disseminate the Foster students’ mentorship list to more parent volunteers.

**Wellness**
George Sanchez is chairing this committee. The Committee outlined their goals such as plans to continue hosting wellness sessions during Family Weekend and reaching out to UMass parents/families on ways to promote wellness to students on certain topics. They are also working on a series of Wellness blogs.

**Special Events**
Alison gave a quick overview based on the info from the Special Events Committee handout. Their goal is to come up with new ideas to strengthen the parents/family interaction and at the same time, continue to support the efforts of the Office of Parents Services. She mentioned the need to develop a budget line for the Advisory to work on some of these efforts.

**International Family Mini-Session, Wednesday before Move in**
Last fall OPS welcomed over 80 international families at the FAC. They had a table with OPS materials including this year’s calendar and parent brochure, business and wallet cards, and “Message from Home” postcards. Families also signed up for the e-newsletter on site. OPS plans to host a mini-orientation session for international families next fall which will possibly include a panel with Bursar, UCard and other key representatives for a Q&A. Another suggestion is to have a reception where these folk and some of the Council members will be present to mingle and answer questions. That way Council members will have a chance to interact with them and connect them to resources. Council members expressed concerns having to be on campus twice that weekend but most especially the Outreach/Community Service committee thought this was a good idea. OPS will continue to update Council members on this issue.

**OPS Program Review Participation**
OPS will go through a review process this academic year. This type of program review happens every 7 years and there are many facets to it including an external review process. Council members are being asked to participate in the external review to give feedback to the review committee. Knowing that this is a very busy
time for folks, Melissa suggested collecting feedback through a survey questionnaire. Patrick volunteered to work with Melissa on designing the survey through Survey Monkey. More to come about that as well.

**Featured Speakers**

**Cara Appel-Silbaugh, Ph.D., Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office**

Dean Cara spoke about her office, the different offices she oversees, and the services available to students to ensure their success. She also spent time talking about how her office in collaboration with others is financially impacting student success. The three programs she mentioned include the Student Care and Emergency Response Fund, the Foster Student Success Fund, and the Student Care Supply Closets. Her office does regular outreach to be sure that students are aware of these services. Students can receive up to $500 for Foster care or the Emergency Response fund; however, they must apply and show financial need. Over $14,000 have been awarded to students. The money is derived from UMass gifts. $3,000 have been donated to Foster Student Success Fund from 49 donors this year. As for the four supply closets on campus, it is very popular with students. A flyer with statistical information was given out to help members understand its significance. Dean Cara’s office plans to open another closet in the Stonewall Center to help with the high demand.

**Jeff Hescock, Executive Director, Environmental Health, and Safety and Emergency Management**

Jeff’s office is responsible for the safety and security of the campus. They plan training sessions, “what if” scenarios, and more. They also apply for grants to support some of their programs. His office and the emergency team are working on more initiatives on how to best disseminate, inform and prepare for any type of emergency situations. He welcomed suggestion from the Council on how best to get information out to students and family members. Some suggestions from members were to have an automated information 24hr line giving out info on where to get updates and to possibly dedicate a phone line different from the UMPD line so families who are anxious can call without clogging the UMPD phone lines since they need not be interrupted in situations like this. The Council engaged in an informative discussion about this important issue.

**Important Dates**

Rose shared Winter NSO, conference call, and on campus meeting dates with Council members and asked them to consider volunteering. She will send out a SignUp Genius form for each event.

- **Winter NSO Volunteering:** December 13, January 15-18 – 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m., Campus Center Auditorium
- **Co-Chair Conference Call:** November 26, 5:30 p.m.
- **Group Conference Call:** December 3, 5:30 p.m.
- **Winter Move-in Meeting:** January 20, 2019, Time and Location TBA
- **Spring Meeting:** March 17, 12:00 – 2:30 p.m., Location TBA

**Other News:**

Jeanne Horrigan made her official announcement that she is retiring from the university as of January 18, 2019. This past weekend has now become her last Family Weekend. She will be missed by the Council members as we all expressed our feelings about her retirement. We wish Jeanne the best and much happy journeys ahead of her.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

*Alison Phelan, recording secretary*