



Parents Advisory Council Spring Meeting

March 19, 2017

Minutes

Members present: Alison Phelan, Anthony Fox, Anthony Tero, Benny Joseph, Charles (Chuck) Kaufman, Ginger Merritt, Leslie Mitchell, Melissa Goldman, Mike Burk, Mimi Mumm, Neena Verma, Ninette Marzouki, Pamela Meoli, Peter Lee, Shannon Cullagh, Tina Barsby, Seena Franklin

Members absent: Mary Johnston Turner, Peggy Schmidt, S. Abbitt' Thomas, Terry Budebo

Staff present: Laura Bourque, Elizabeth Cleary, Jeanne Horrigan, Rose Boulay

Featured speakers: Eric Moschella, Associate Provost for Student Success; Kelly Gray, Associate Dean for Student Life, Dean of Students Office

Call to order & business items

The meeting began at 12:30 pm with Ninette Marzouki and Neena Verma presiding. Jeanne started the meeting by welcoming the group especially new members and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Council Updates: Members reviewed the changes to the bylaws. Mike suggested editing page 5 to include which day of move-in weekend we plan to hold the Advisory Council meeting which in this case is Sunday; other areas were clarified. All voted to approve the changes.

Election of Officers: Alison agreed to be the next secretary! All voted to approve Alison as the UMAPA Advisory Council Secretary starting June 2017.

Discussion Items

Possible Goals for the 2017-18 Academic Year: The Council will build on its past successes and create new goals for the 2017-18 academic year. We'll:

- Continue to grow the Foster Care initiative
- Develop an out-of-state family engagement plan to provide better support for out-of-state families.
- Work toward expanding our volunteer opportunities to give out-of-state and in-state families living from a greater distance opportunities to engage with the UMass community. The plan is to
 - Create a volunteer bank

- Partner with the Office of Admissions to volunteer at in-state and out of state recruitment fairs and receptions for underrepresented prospective students and families.
- Help at Summer NSO registration/check-in and family dinner, and move-in.

Committee Reports

Community service/outreach: The Committee hopes to double the number of individual donations for the Foster Care initiative and plans to help more students. Mimi will lead the effort moving forward with Mike’s help. They will continue to repost the Foster Care blog for awareness at the moment and continue to meet to explore ideas. At some point, they would like to have a student recipient come to a meeting to share their experience and provide input. There are other ideas to explore including mentorship. Peter will take on food insecurity which needs more attention/focus. Melissa will develop a survey and reach out to volunteers for subcommittee work – events, initiatives, etc. Mimi and Mike will co-chair the committee for now.

Social Media: Anthony Tero volunteered to chair this group and assist with the Facebook group. We’ll need to decide in one of our conference calls if we should continue with the blog. Although, the blog generates 300 individual visitors per month and about 125-150 hits within the first 2-3 days after a new post goes live, we haven’t had a lot of article submissions. We’ll need to decide to either discontinue it or open it up to other families for articles.

Special Events: Alison agreed to chair the Special Events committee. The committee plans to collaborate with the Wellness committee to provide a Family Fun 5K/run. Alison also mentioned having a theme this year for the Family Weekend 2017 reception. She will get the group together and start working on these projects.

Wellness: The committee had a successful year. They published two wellness blog articles and plan to publish another one in April. Benny has already submitted that article to Mary. Furthermore, they organized and hosted two meditation sessions at Family Weekend last year. They are currently planning to have a panel discussion on day drinking/substance use at Family Weekend 2017. Panelists have been identified and booked for the presentation.

Featured Speakers – Kelly Gray, Associate Dean of Students for Student Life, Dean of Students office talked about the role of her office and how they help students who are experiencing challenges. She discussed some of the projects her office is currently working on to help with food insecurity and financial distress among students.

Eric Moschella, Associate Provost for Student Success. He is new to the University and started his position in October. This is a new position with emphasis on student retention and success.
ACTION ITEM: Eric would like the Advisory Council to help finding out where there are gaps.

Acknowledgment of Out Going Members: Jeanne acknowledged members whose students are graduating in May and the ones that have completed their two-year term. Fortunately for us three

of those members will continue to serve as Emeritus; so we expect them to stay on for one more year. We thanked Benny and Tina for their service and welcomed Mike, Seena, and Pam as emeritus members. Ninette also completed a two-year term as co-chair. We're equally happy that she will return next year as a member.

Fall Meetings: We'll have two meetings next semester – Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 3, 10-12 noon and Sunday, October 15, 10:00 am-12:30 pm at Family Weekend; locations TBA.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Seena Franklin