
Members on Zoom: Theresa Tiernan

Members Absent: Bronwyn Cooper, George Sanchez, Jen Dolan, Jennifer Getchell, Melissa Goldman, Michelle White

Staff Present: Pallavi Bandalli, Rose Boulay

The meeting started at 9 a.m. with Penny and Rose presiding. Penny welcomed the new members and the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Featured Keynote Speaker: Carolyn Bassett, Associate Provost for Student Success
Carolyn spoke about the Student Success office’s mission, vision, and goals. The office focuses on helping students excel academically by finding ways that help students persist at UMass and get the most out of the UMass education. They help students set academic goals, connect with key people, and get involved. They remove obstacles/barriers and support students’ timely progress toward degree completion and build campus partnership. Student Success Program services include Academic Alert, Residential Academic Program, Domestic Exchange, Five College Interchange, Academic Advisor Support, and support for First Year Seminars. The office also supports first generation, transfer, and students from underrepresented backgrounds. Staff also provide financial wellness education, time management, and study skills workshops, and many more. More and detailed information is available on their website.

Several questions were asked; to which Carolyn provided many answers and explanations.

Overview of the Office of Parent Services (OPS)
Rose briefly gave an overview of the office and the services available to help with the student transition process. Rose briefly gave an overview of the office and the services available to help with the student transition process. She mentioned the five staff members, the 30+ students they hire every year to help coordinate activities, and the major event the office organizes. It is a small office which delivers big programming activities year around.
Programs and Services offered year around:
- Spring Open Houses for Admitted Students
- YouMass Days
- Fall and Winter Welcome
- Summer and Winter Orientations
- Family Weekend

Communications: OPS communicates with families regularly throughout the year through different mediums, one of which being the OPS monthly e-newsletter. Families can subscribe to the e-newsletter on the OPS website if they’re currently not receiving information from the office.

Website: On the website, families will find important information to help them and their student with the transition process such as timely topics, e-postcards, poll questions, a reading list, departments’ information, and so on.

Facebook: OPS has a Facebook page through which a tip is posted every Tuesday for families to learn about available resources at the university or to find out about important dates/events.

UMAPA Advisory Council Overview
Penny gave a brief overview of the Advisory Council, including its objectives and goals, and member composition and stated why most families decided to join the council which for the most part is to feel connected to the university, stay involved in their student’s education, support other families in the college journey, see UMass Amherst through different lens, and/or meet other families.

Advisory Council Accomplishments 2018-19
Penny reviewed the Council’s accomplishments for the 2018-19 academic year which includes Students Supply Closet donation drives (1,872 items collected between spring and fall); UMass Amherst Family to Family Blog (12 articles submitted and published); UMass Amherst Family to Family Facebook Group (4,720 members - an increase of 1,620 members from this time last year.); Foster Student Success Fund (with a current balance of $9,083 which includes a $1,200 donation for the month of August.), and UMass Gives ($3,850 raised within two days in April).

Committee Reports
Penny asked each committee chair in attendance to report on their progress.

- **Community Service/Outreach**: Mercel talked about the responsibilities and initiatives that the committee has undertaken and the goal for 2019-20.

- **Wellness**: The committee will continue to work on some wellness initiatives including writing and submitting a few wellness articles for the Family to Family blog.

- **Special Events**: Since the Special Events committee chair position was vacant, Penny mentioned what the committee has been in charge of in the past including the Family
Weekend Reception, Fall Family Welcome, and volunteerism at orientation and other OPS events.

- **Social Media:** Penny explained the two Social Media components which are the blog and the Facebook group. Joe Kaplan will be more active in monitoring the Facebook group postings along with Penny, Kathleen, and Jill.

**Elections of Officers**

- **Co-chair:** Mary Millett agreed to be the co-chair. The motion was carried after a Council member seconded it.
- **Social Media Chair/Co-Chair:** Joe Kaplan and Jill Taylor both agreed to co-chair the Social Media committee.
- **Special Events Chair:** Joel Lord and Maureen Provost agreed to serve as co-chair for the Special Events committee.

**Council and Committee Officers as of October 19, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Penny Nichols-Cordero</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Chair</td>
<td>Mary Millett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Lisa Silletti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media Co-Chairs</td>
<td>Joe Kaplan and Jill Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach Committee Chair</td>
<td>Mercel Meredith Ault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events Committee Co-Chairs</td>
<td>Joel Lord and Maureen Provost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness Committee Chair</td>
<td>George Sanchez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care Initiative Liaison</td>
<td>Jill Taylor</td>
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**Immediate Need**

*Blog article submission:* Rose encouraged members to consider writing articles for the blog. The goals are to share experiences with new and current UMass Amherst families and guardians and provide insights.

The following members agreed to write an article on following topics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jill Taylor</td>
<td>Greek Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hilary Rosenbaum</td>
<td>Transfer Student Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Lord</td>
<td>Learning Resource Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maureen Provost</td>
<td>Getting Involved in the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercel Meredith-Ault</td>
<td>Study Abroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Millett</td>
<td>Summer Study Abroad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lori Lamson</td>
<td>Time Management Techniques</td>
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**Key Dates:**

- *Winter NSO Volunteering:* January 14-1, 8-9:30 a.m., Campus Center Lower Level
- *Co-Chair Conference Calls:* November 7 and December 3, 4:30 p.m.
Group Conference Calls: November 12 and December 16, 5:30 p.m.
Spring Meeting: March 22, noon – 2:30 p.m.

Campus Update

- UMass Amherst Ranked among Top 24 (#24) National Public Universities by U.S. News & World Report

- More than 31,000 students are enrolled, including 23,783 undergraduates from 71 countries and 50 states.

- UMass Amherst has ranked number one nationally for “Best Campus Food” for three straight years in the Princeton Review’s *The Best 380 Colleges*.

- We’re building the next generation of facilities for living and learning at UMass Amherst, including new classrooms, labs, residence halls, dining commons, and recreation venues. Altogether, we’ve built 2.6 million gross square feet of new facilities in the last 10 years.

- We’re among the top research universities nationwide for our commitment to leadership in sustainability.

- Our graduates work in such dynamic places as Broadway, NASA, Google, Fenway Park, IBM, the Brooklyn Museum, CNN, General Electric, Alaska’s Denali National Park to name a few. They are leaders on Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill, on the stage and on the field, in the board room and in the laboratory.

- For Seventh Consecutive Year, UMass Amherst Named a Top LGBTQ-Friendly Campus

- Campus Ranked Fourth Safest in U.S.

For more updates/Points of Pride visit [https://www.umass.edu/gateway/about/points-pride](https://www.umass.edu/gateway/about/points-pride)

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

*Lisa Silletti, recording secretary*