

Parent Advisory Council, Fall Move In Meeting

September 3, 2017

Members Present: Alison Phelan, Chuck Kaufman, Ginger Merritt, Leslie Mitchell, Melissa Goldman, Mike Burk, Mimi Mumm, Neena Verma, Pam Meoli, Peter Lee, S Abbitt' Thomas, Seena Franklin, Terry Budebo, Peggy Schmidt

Members on Zoom: Shannon Cullagh, Anthony Fox

Members Absent: Ninette Marzouki

Staff Present: Rose Boulay, Jeanne Horrigan

The meeting began at 10 a.m. with Neena and Jeanne presiding.

Discussion Items

Summer NSO Recap: Jeanne welcomed members and reported on the New Students Orientation program (NSO) program. It was a very successful program with over 4,000 students and more than 2,000 families attending. 15 current families volunteered for registration/check-in and NSO dinners. All with the exception of three dinners were staffed with two volunteers. It was a great program overall.

2017 Foster Care Initiative: This was again a very successful year. We raised over \$3225 and counting from 51 families; that's an increase of \$1,840 and 30 extra families from last year. Besides the gift cards, we also secured one set of linens from the Linens Program, a free MicroChill rental, and a UMass mat for each student. We have 10 students entering this fall. Each student received a letter last July introducing them to resources, point people for questions and concerns, and where to report to receive their gifts. Just as last year, Mike and Mimi sent "Thank You" cards to donors with addresses and posted a thank you note on the Facebook group.

Supply Closet Donation: We organized a drive for the Supply Closet: toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss, and mouthwash during Fall Welcome. Jeanne thanked family volunteers who helped with this project at Move-In.

Hate Has No Home at UMass Amherst Campaign: Jeanne described briefly what the campaign is all about. She circulated the Chancellor's email for members to read.

Committee Member List Update: Members were asked to review the committee list and let OPS know if they want to change committee(s). Jeanne stressed the need for each member to be involved in at least one committee. In addition, the Chair requested that someone lead/organize the New Member Orientation starting next spring. Mike again volunteered to lead the New Member Orientation this time, but needs someone to shadow him this fall so the new person could start in the spring.

Council Members Feedback to OPS: Jeanne asked members to visit the OPS website and offer feedback.

Monthly Conference Calls: Rose reminded members of the monthly conference calls which we plan to start this month. Rose will send out a google form for availabilities. Please respond to Rose's email in a timely fashion.

Family Weekend Registration: Advisory Council members will attend Family Weekend for free. Jeanne asked members to register through the Family Weekend website and choose "pay by check" for the payment option.

Advisory Council Family Weekend Activities:

- Friday Evening- Family Reception
- Saturday Afternoon- Face Painting
- Saturday Afternoon- Family Panel Session on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Saturday Afternoon and Sunday Morning- Meditation

Family Weekend Meeting:

- October 15, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm, location TBA

Members are asked to think about agenda items and which department they'd like to hear from. Please send your list to the Chair.

Committee/Small Group Tasks

Neena explained the goals sheet which invites committees to brainstorm and create their goals for the year and the action items for their respective committee(s). The Special Events committee was also asked to generate ideas for a spring event for mid-year students and families.

The group then broke into committees to plan out their next steps.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.