Fall Meeting
October 18, 2020
Minutes


Members Absent: Amy Chisholm, Debra Ross, Doreen Morrissey, Wayne Goldstein

Staff Present: Pallavi Bandalli, Rose Boulay

Council Members Check-In and New Members Welcome

The meeting started at 10 a.m. with Andrew, Mary, and Rose presiding. Mary welcomed the new members and the group, then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Keynote Speaker - Dr. Evelyn Ashley, Dean of Students

Dr. Ashley joined UMass approximately six weeks ago as Dean of Students. She talked primarily about her current vision and priorities as the new Dean of Students Office (DOSO) and they are:

Education – Students come to the university not only for academics but also to learn about life. DOSO’s top priority is to educate students about life and how to navigate various opportunities and/or obstacles that life tends to bring.

Care – Being able to care and support students is very important. One of DOSO’s goal is to meet with students and refer them to different offices that are available on campus to help them be successful.

Support – Many offices within DOSO work to make sure that students and their families feel supported in the pursuit of their degree. The offices are working together and doing their best with what they have to support students.

Advocacy – Helping students think about their needs and making sure the policies and procedures are in place to support students’ advocacy are paramount.

Accountability – Helping students become accountable to themselves and the people that they work with. Overall, the Dean of Students Office Collaborative which includes many other offices within the university is there to help students throughout their time at the university.

Council members asked how they can be helpful and supportive of DOSO’s vision. She briefly talked about the micro-grants from Student Care and Emergency Response Fund that the Council could collaborate with and support.

Spring Semester Planning

Where we are in the planning process
The Chancellor announced last September that he had form some working groups to work on evaluating fall best practices and lessons learned around the nation, current testing and safety measures etc., and coming up with a plan for spring 2021. Since the announcement, many working
groups from campus including current students are involved in the decision-making process. The strategic working groups has finalized their recommendations and shared them with the Chancellor. They will continue to meet to work on the implementation phase.

- **Spring re-enrollment for deferred students/fall withdrawals**
  Rose shared that October 15 was the deadline for students who deferred/withdrew this fall to re-enroll for spring 2021.

- **Winter New Students Orientation**
  Rose mentioned that New Students Orientation (NSO) will be virtual again this winter. The dates will be finalized and posted on the NSO website. Due to the fluid situation, the pre-recorded PowerPoint presentations will not be provided this winter.

**Bylaws Update and Approval**

OPS made some changes to the bylaws - primarily replacing UMass Amherst Parent Association Advisory Council with UMass Amherst Parents Advisory Council. The old branding was replaced with the new one. A motion was made by Andrew to approve the changes. Such motion was seconded by Penny and so the motion was passed.

**Elections of Officers**

- **Secretary**: Christie Ryan volunteered to be the next secretary. Jill Taylor (former member as of October 18) made a motion and Amy Davis seconded it. So Christie Ryan was approved to become the Council Secretary starting Spring 2021.

- **Co-chair, Special Events**: Amy Bronson volunteered to succeed Maureen in Spring 2021. Andrew made a motion to approve, Amy and Carlin seconded the motion.

With these two votes, the lineup starting Spring 2021 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Members</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council Chair</td>
<td>Mary Millett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Co-chair</td>
<td>Andrew Ehrlich</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Lisa Silletti (Fall 2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christie Ryan (starting Spring 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach Chair</td>
<td>This position is now vacant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness Co-chairs</td>
<td>Alan Bird and Lolli Fleming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events Co-chairs</td>
<td>Dale DiMento and Maureen Provost (Fall 2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amy Bronson (Starting Spring 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>Penny Nichols Cordero, Carlin Bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog</td>
<td>Craig Levis starting Spring 2021</td>
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**Family Weekend Update**

- **Preliminary numbers**
  Rose shared updates on Family Weekend. 450 people registered for the virtual program. Most of the sessions were well attended. Chancellor’s Welcome and Student Performance Showcase were both streamed live on YouTube and families continue to watch them at their leisure. The recordings of some events will be posted on the [UMass Parent Services YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/). Rose thanked the Special Events
and Wellness committees for posting photos, creating videos, facilitating interviews, and advertising events on the Facebook group and page.

- **Proud Shirts Sales and Student Care & Emergency Response Fund**
  Our t-shirt/hoodie sales was ok but not great. As of Monday, October 12, 88 hoodies and 72 t-shirts were sold at full prize. The rest was discounted at 15% of sales starting Thursday, October 15.

- **Photo Contest**
  Seven families (not including Advisory Council) submitted photos. Winners were chosen and announced at the Student Performance Showcase. OPS will contact winners to give out the prizes.

### Committee reports

- **Community Service/Outreach**
  The committee will continue to help DOSO with collecting items for the five Supply Closets and find ways to sustain the Foster Student Success Fund and help supporting the Student Care and Emergency Response Fund. They also plan to create a Facebook page within the Fam to Fam Facebook group to meet the needs of out of state and international families. Another idea is to create a ‘Podcast’ on different topics of interest to families. Zoom Happy Hour was also mentioned as a way to reach out to families especially out of state families and improve their UMass experience.

- **Special Events**
  Maureen gave an overview of the Special Events Committee’s work. This year, the committee welcome families by producing welcome videos which were posted on the New Students Orientation website, the OPS Facebook page, and the Family to Family Facebook group. For the first time, families were invited to attend Fall Convocation and the Special Events Committee was therefore involved in welcoming families at that event as well. They are now exploring other new ideas to create virtual experiences for families during COVID.

- **Social Media**
  Penny shared some statistics about the Family to Family Facebook group. The main goal of the online platform is to provide a positive and supportive environment with some specific rules for members to follow. The Social Media committee will partner with the Outreach Committee to explore some more features to support out of state and international families.

- **Wellness**
  Alan reported on the Wellness Committee. The committee published two blog articles related to COVID and Wellbeing. In addition, they hosted a live interview on Wellbeing, Connection, and Resilience at Family Weekend with Dr. Betsy Cracco, Assistant Vice Chancellor Campus Life and Wellbeing. The committee is now working on providing families with Facebook live series on wellness, mental health, nutrition, and more. Kimberly reached out and lined up three potential speakers; a psychologist from the Center for Counseling and Psychological Health, a nutritionist from the Department of Nutrition, and a meditation therapist. They will continue to work with OPS to move these events forward. For the remainder of the academic year, the Wellness Committee wants to explore additional blog posts and interviews based on a collection of topics they have been working on.

### 2020 Presidential Election & UMass Safe Space

November 3 is Election Day. Rose reminded Council members to encourage their students to vote if they are at least 18 years old. Students, whether on campus or remote, will be impacted and may need a safe space to
express themselves. The university is actively working on creating programs and services to facilitate open dialogues.

Fall Enrollment Numbers and COVID Impact on Students

Rose shared some Fall enrollment numbers with Council members. As of 9/20/2020, 22,661 full-time Undergraduate students and 4,340 full-time Graduate students were enrolled for Fall 2020. Among undergraduate students, 51% are females and 49% are males; 23% are First Generation and 62% are white. Undergraduate students come from 46 states, including Puerto Rico, Guam and Armed Forces bases while 78% are from Massachusetts. Undergraduate students come from 84 countries, but only 7% of all undergraduates are international residents. More is available at https://www.umass.edu/oir/sites/default/files/publications/factsheets/enrollment/fall/FS_enr_01_f.pdf

Outgoing Members Acknowledgement

Seven members who will complete their two-year term this fall were acknowledged. They are: Amy Chisholm, Amy Davis, Bronwyn Cooper, Gary Dougherty, Lisa Silletti, Maureen Provost, and Tushar Walhekar. Certificate of appreciation will be mailed once OPS staff is back on campus.

Spring Meeting Dates

OPS will send out a Google form with some possible dates and times to choose from since this year there isn’t a spring break for students. The official date /time will be based on what works for most.

Key Dates: Please mark your calendar

- Advisory Council Group Conference Calls via Zoom Meeting:
  - November 17 @ 5:30 pm
  - December 8 @ 5:30 pm

Campus Update

- UMass Amherst Ranked among Top 26 (#26) National Public Universities by U.S. News & World Report

- As of 9/20/2020, there are 22,661 full-time Undergraduate students and 4,340 full-time Graduate students enrolled for Fall 2020 from 84 countries and 46 states including Puerto Rico, Guam and Armed Forces bases.

- UMass Amherst has ranked number one nationally for “Best Campus Food” for the fifth year in a row in the Princeton Review’s The Best 380 Colleges.

- We have 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.

- For the fourth time in the past five years, the Mark H. McCormack Department of Sport Management has been judged by its academic peers as the number one sport management program in the world, according to “Sport Business” magazine’s annual global rankings
• 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.

• UMass Amherst has been recognized as one of the top 30 LGBTQ-Friendly Campus

• The UMass Amherst food science department maintained its number-one ranking in the U.S. and jumped to seventh in the world, according to the 2020 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects, part of the annual Academic Ranking of World Universities

• Campus Ranked Seventh Safest in U.S.

More updates Points of Pride visit https://www.umass.edu/gateway/about/points-pride

Helpful links:
UMass Amherst Reopening: https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/
Student Success Office: https://www.umass.edu/studentsuccess/
Office of Parent Services: http://www.umass.edu/parents/
UMass Amherst Parents Advisory Council: http://www.umass.edu/parents/advisory-council
Family to Family Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1511631422486897/
Family to Family Blog: http://blogs.umass.edu/fam2fam/?
Foster Student Success Fund: https://minutefund.umass.edu/project/10521
Students Care and Emergency Response Fund: https://minutefund.umass.edu/project/20457
Single Stop Resource: https://www.umass.edu/studentlife/single-stop

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Lisa Silletti, recording secretary