

Cal Poly Parent Program Advisory Council Meeting

November 11, 2001

Christine & Conrad Young's Home
San Luis Obispo, CA

MINUTES

Attending:

Council Members – Carol Ahlem, Perilla Brewer, Mary Cox, Mike Cox, Jerry Holcombe, Sally Holcombe, Ellie Jorritsma, Christine Young, Jennifer Stuppi, Paul Stuppi
Staff – Dr. Robert Detweiler, Nicky Nickelsen

Welcome/Introduction

Ellie Jorritsma called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. She thanked the Council members for their volunteer efforts during Parents' Day and for their support of the Parent Program and Cal Poly.

Minutes

The July meeting minutes were approved as written.

University Update

Dr. Detweiler indicated the search for a new Vice President of Student Affairs has begun. A professional search firm was hired to develop a candidate list and applications are being reviewed. The campus search committee plans to invite the top candidates to campus in February 2002 and make a decision shortly thereafter.

Dr. Detweiler indicated construction on an 800 bed housing facility and is continuing and should be completed by winter 2003. Cal Poly is committed to not admitting students unless there is housing for them. Housing for staff and faculty is also planned.

Dr. Detweiler indicated that the State of California's budget is grim, and, as is the case in any recession, state government is usually the last to recover. Cal Poly will be facing significant budget cuts; however, the university is making a concerted effort to keep reductions within the colleges to a minimum. Student Affairs and other areas of campus are taking larger cuts. Cal Poly receives only the CSU average funding for its enrollment growth, an amount considerably below the requirements to sustain quality in our mission-centric programs and the teaching and learning environment that supports them. In addition, the great majority of Cal Poly's students are enrolled in polytechnic and science-based programs of study, which are more costly to run. As a result, the University is looking to institute a campus-based academic fee increase. President Baker *is* continuing to work with the Chancellor's Office, the CSU Trustees and others to convince the Governor and the Legislature to improve State funding. The University is also engaged in a major fundraising campaign that is unprecedented in its goals for Cal Poly and the CSU. And, the University is undertaking various administrative, calendar, curricular and other changes that increase our efficiency and allow us to stretch our budget further. So, a proposed student fee increase is part of larger university plan to support its academic programs.

Since we have heard from students that they most closely identify with their college and/or department, we agree with their view that the best way to engage students and obtain their advice and counsel is to present the information about a fee increase at the "local" level of college and department. Therefore, each college has developed with its students a proposal for the fee amount and expenditure to share with their students, faculty and staff.

These proposals reflect the particular needs and plans of each of the colleges. The fee increases, if they pass, will likely be no greater than \$200.00 per quarter.

Dr. Detweiler asked the Council if they feel parents should be informed of the increase, and what they believe would be the best way to do so. The Council agreed that parents should be informed, perhaps with a letter or using the communication vehicles of the Parent Program, unless, as plans unfold, the Colleges decide to communicate with parents. The members indicated they believe many parents would support an increase if they were well informed.

Council Updates

Leadership Development:

Nicky indicated that the Parent Program is still entering data from the WOW surveys completed by parents. This process was delayed a bit due to planning for Parents' Day. She indicated the e-mail network volunteers would receive the parent names of freshman students by the end of December. She also indicated that parents are now able to sign up for the e-mail network on-line via the Parent Program Web site. When the reporting phase of the Parent Program database is in place, it will be easier to send updates to each volunteer on a regular basis. Suggestions for topics and ways to improve the network were requested.

Events:

Christine Young reported on the Julian event, which she and Conrad hosted for Cal Poly alumni and parents in their area. Approximately 8 or 10 parent couples attended and were able to meet and talk at a parent table. The event was very successful with a large crowd from San Diego County enjoying apple picking, a BBQ, a wine stomp, entertainment and raffle prizes. Thank you to Christine and Conrad for hosting a fabulous and festive event.

WOW Parent Orientation Weekend was a tremendous success. Ellie thanked the Council members who were available to answer questions at the parent booth, assist with the Parent Program panels (which were very well attended in comparison to past years), and host at the Saturday evening Parent Reception. Thank you to Ellie for a wonderful welcome Saturday morning and evening at the Performing Arts Center. The outreach to parents was significant and included our Parent Handbook, newsletters, WOW surveys, giveaways and Parents' Day information.

Nicky thanked the Council members for their assistance at Parents' Day. Suggestions from the Council for next year included: Providing information on the Homecoming Parade and a scheduling the welcome session for later in the morning.

Communications:

Ellie announced that our Parent Handbook, which was produced in conjunction with the WOW Program, was awarded Outstanding Parent Handbook by the National Orientation Directors Association. Nicky thanked everyone for identifying the handbook as a project they felt was a priority and making suggestions for content and format. She thanked Sally for the time and effort she spent proofreading the Frequently Asked Questions. Thanks to Ellie for providing a welcome letter for the introduction on behalf of the Parent Program.

Topics for the spring newsletter were requested. The Open House invitation will be included in the newsletter. The Council suggested covering the following topics: Off-campus housing, the e-mail network, the student fee increase if the timing is appropriate, and, depending on what communications the colleges provide, a calendar and a column on a parent's perspective.

Fund Development:

The first fall Parent Fund appeal was mailed. However, due to an error on the part of the mailing service, some appeals were addressed to students, and not "To The Parents Of." We do not yet know the full effect this will have on the Parent Fund totals. The second appeal letter is being prepared. Parent Program magnets were not included in the letters, as most parents of freshmen students received them at Admitted Students' Day or at WOW.

Adjournment

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the last weekend in January. Information will be forthcoming. Ellie Jorritsma adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Please forward additions or corrections to calpolyparent@calpoly.edu. Thank you.
Respectfully submitted,

Nicky Nickelsen