

Cal Poly Parent Program Advisory Council Meeting

Sunday, October 17, 2004
University Union, Room 220
Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

MINUTES

ATTENDING

Council Members – Paul Bittick, Kirk Brewer, Perilla Brewer, Ed Czisny, Maxine Czisny, Gloria Edelen, Connie Friel, John Friel, Bobbe Michallik, Walter Michallik, Sue Richardson, Tony Richardson, Bob Rivoire, Francis Rivoire, Carolyn Thom, Thanos Trezos, Crystal Williams, Kenneth Williams, Robbie Williams, Melanie Dreike

Staff – Tony Aeilts, Nicky Nickelsen

Parent Guests – John Cotter, Chris Dreike

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

John Friel called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed all and led introductions. Parent guest, John Cotter who was invited to observe the meeting and Chris Dreike, Melanie Dreike's husband, were acknowledged. Ed and Maxine Czisny and Paul Bittick were acknowledged as the newest members of the Parent Program Advisory Council and will serve through August 2007.

A motion to approve the minutes from the August meeting – e-mailed to members - was made. They were approved with a motion to add the parking lot items discussed at the last meeting. Once added, Nicky will e-mail these separately for review.

MEMBER RECOGNITION

John Friel and Nicky Nickelsen recognized four Parent Advisory Council members whose terms ended this past summer.

Kirk and Perilla Brewer are parents of Alexia who is a landscape architecture major. The Brewers are from San Pedro. The Brewers served three years on the Council and then extended their terms a fourth year to provide continuity to the program. Kirk served as Council Chair last year.

Bobbe & Walter Michallik are parents of Kristen who is Business major graduating next year. They have served on the Council three years and were helpful in coordinating the local Viva Cal Poly alumni and parent event in Orange County the past several years and hosting the Rose Float event in 2001.

GUEST SPEAKER - TONY AEILTS, CHIEF, UNIVERSITY POLICE

Tony Aeilts, Chief of the University Police Department, provided Council members with an overview of the University Police department, its mission and values, a summary of its services and staffing, and a list of crime statistics. He spoke to some of the trends occurring on American college campuses and answered questions related to safety and the enforcement of the law at Cal Poly and in the community of San Luis Obispo.

University Police is a full service police department certified by the California Department of Justice. Like any local community police department, it has full authority to enforce the law and advocates a community-oriented policing philosophy. The department staff consists of 95 employees including sworn police officers, parking enforcement officers, dispatchers, administrative and access services staff and community service officers.

The department offers police services, parking services, commuter and access services and special events services, coordinating approximately 300 events, accommodating 250,000 vehicles and welcoming over 500,000 visitors annually.

According to Chief Aeilts, the campus has seen a 60% reduction in crime between the years of 1995 and 2003. Most of the crimes are categorized as larceny-theft (163 in 2003). Burglary is the next highest statistic (22 in 2003). A portion of the theft that occurs is University equipment. However, students are also victims. Since most campus crimes are “crimes of opportunity”, students are encouraged, before they arrive, during WOW orientation and throughout the year to exercise common sense - avoid bringing valuables to school; secure items such as bikes appropriately; and keep backpacks, books, laptops and other items with them at all times.

Chief Aeilts indicated that rapes and assaults do occur and, more often than not, are related to the use or abuse of alcohol or controlled substances. The University Police enforces a zero-tolerance policy with regard to the possession of alcohol and underage drinking. He discussed the problem Universities are experiencing nationwide with alcohol abuse and mentioned some of the programs Cal Poly has undertaken including: educational presentations during orientation programs; social norms campaigns; notices to students who have been arrested for alcohol-related violations containing suggested resources; the implementation of parental notification on second offenses, the formation of an Alcohol Task Force and other committees or dialogue operating in partnership with local businesses and officials. Many of these have been mentioned or discussed at length by Dr. Morton at previous meetings.

Students are referred to Judicial Affairs which administers the campus student disciplinary system. Cases involving alleged violations of University policies or campus rules by students must be referred to this office, which maintains centralized, confidential, disciplinary records and has responsibility for ensuring fair and impartial administration of discipline. The type of disciplinary action is dependent upon the circumstances, whether there is a prior infraction and how the student handles the situation among other factors. Judicial action can range from a warning to a suspension. For more information visit:
<http://www.calpoly.edu/%7Esaaffairs/ja/index.html>

A question was raised regarding escort services. Chief Aeilts talked about the Safe Ride Home program serves SLO City Thursday-Saturday from 9pm-3am. The University Police Escort Van program transports students Sunday-Thursday from dusk until midnight within ½ mile of campus.

A question was raised regarding the availability of parking spaces and new construction planned on campus. Cal Poly has over 17,000 students and 2600 employees. With 6,000 parking spaces, the University recommends leaving the car at home and considering alternative transportation. Local transit is safe and reliable and is free to students as well as staff. As construction projects come online, old lots may be closed and new lots will be built, although the number of spaces may be reduced. UPD plans to add bike lockers and 30 new bike racks in the coming year.

John Friel asked the Chief how the Parent Program Advisory Council might assist in getting public safety information and practical tips for parents out to the general Cal Poly parent community. The Chief agreed to submit a column in the fall and spring Parent Connection newsletters.

UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Cornel Morton was unable to attend due to illness. Nicky expressed his regrets and provided the following brief update. Jean DeCosta, formerly the University Ombuds has recently been

appointed Dean of Students in the Division of Student Affairs. The Dean of Students' role is a student support function in areas that include student advocacy, and support and facilitation of various processes in the University. Jean will also provide leadership and coordination in matters related to conflict management, problem resolution, town/gown relations, mediation, and will assist in bridging closer ties with Academic Affairs and other major units on campus. Denise Campbell has been appointed Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. Denise comes from the Division of Academic Affairs and will be assisting Cornel with Student Affairs initiatives and programming. The Council on Student Success continues to meet. The Creative Mediation Program is underway as is planning for Mardi Gras 2005. Cornel will provide more information on the progress of these programs winter quarter.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

John Friel conducted the strategic planning session continuing discussion from the summer meeting. The focus of the session was to review and update the Council bylaws, discuss a course of action for the Council's functional responsibilities and the Council's goals and objectives for the coming years and address the Vice Chair vacancy.

The first draft of changes to the bylaws (proposed at the summer meeting) was e-mailed to the Council for review. John facilitated a second round of discussion surrounding additional changes, gathering a consensus of the revised verbiage section-by-section. The second draft will be e-mailed to the Council for review prior to the winter meeting. The Council spent considerable time and was very thoughtful in making comments.

The Council agreed that the list of Functional Responsibilities (which are not part of the bylaws) be revised by the Parent Program and reviewed by the Council at the winter 2005 meeting.

The matter of the position of Vice Chair was discussed. A list of roles and responsibilities for the position of Vice Chair as well as that of Chair was distributed. The following members were nominated for consideration: Paul Bittick, Bob Rivoire, Frances Rivoire and Floyd Watson. Nicky Nickelsen will e-mail members following the meeting again requesting nominations so that those members who are absent have an opportunity to participate in the nomination process. Once she receives the nominations, the nominees will be asked if they wish to be part of a vote. The Council at large will then be notified of the nominees.

PARENT PROGRAM DISCUSSION ITEMS

Parents were invited to view the Parent Program's new Web site after the meeting. Nicky was also available to answer questions and direct parents who had questions about upcoming changes to the registration and scheduling system that will impact students during winter quarter.

ADJOURNMENT

The winter meeting will be held Saturday, February 5, 2005. Information will be forthcoming by e-mail. John Friel adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM. Box lunches were provided.

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

Nicky Nickelsen