

Cal Poly Parent Program Advisory Council Meeting

April 20, 2002

Education Building, Cal Poly

MINUTES

Attending

Council Members – Carol Ahlem, Kirk Brewer, Mary Cox, Mike Cox, Jerry Holcombe, Sally Holcombe, Ellie Jorritsma, Betty Long, Bobbe Michallik, Walter Michallik, Barbara McRae, Diane Ryan, Tony Ryan, Jennifer Stuppi, Paul Stuppi, John Yost, Suzie Yost

Staff – Dr. Robert Detweiler, Nicky Nickelsen

Guests – Mille Hubbard

Welcome/Introduction

Ellie Jorritsma called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Ellie thanked the Council members for their time hosting parents of new students yesterday at the Admitted Students' Day Resource Fair, Parent Panels and Coffeehouse. She indicated the turnout – especially at the Coffeehouse – was amazing – nearly 3 to 4 times last year with about 350 to 400 parents gathering at The Avenue.

Minutes

An addendum to the April meeting minutes was requested as follows: Tony and Diane Ryan to be added as attending. A motion was made by Carol Ahlem to approve the April minutes and addendum. They were approved.

University Update

Dr. Detweiler thanked everyone for their continued support and service as members of the Parent Council by volunteering their time to welcome and orient parents of new students. He expressed the university's appreciation of their participation. He began his update by indicating that the results of the student vote regarding the fee initiative were encouraging. The initiatives passed in all colleges. In four of the six colleges, the initiatives passed by 60%. Starting fall 2002, the revenue from the fees will be used to enhance the quality of academic programs, add more sections of high demand classes, provide classes that have not been offered in some time and improve instructional equipment and technology. Students will serve on committees in each of the colleges to determine how the funds are allocated with oversight provided by Department Chairs and Deans.

Dr. Detweiler indicated the search for a new Vice President has been narrowed to four top candidates. The last of the four candidates visited the campus yesterday. The candidates are all well qualified and are in similar positions at Bowling Green University, University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, Stanford and Kent State. A decision is expected by this summer.

Dr. Detweiler summarized progress on the new 800-bed student campus-housing complex. The completion date has been moved back to fall 2003. The second phase is scheduled for completion by fall 2006. The university is also planning to develop 85 units for faculty and staff on university land at the Highland entrance to campus on the west side of Highway 101. The development will consist of single-family dwellings. Since the land is free, the University is hoping to sell the units below market value. Many community members in the neighborhood oppose the development, citing traffic congestion and adverse affects on the market value of homes among other concerns.

Dr. Detweiler discussed recent student deaths; one of which was alcohol-related and another, which is believed to be drug-related. In both cases, the victims were alone when they died. Student deaths such as these are a low on a percentage-basis, but they can be

prevented. The university does have “social norms” oriented educational programs in place. Materials posted on campus advertise that drinking in moderation is “the norm.” The university does have a full time Greek Coordinator and an addiction counselor. About 5% of Cal Poly’s student population is severely affected - physically or academically – by drug or alcohol-related addictions. Campus safety programs urge students to have a “buddy” they can rely upon for rides home late at night, or watch over them and seek medical attention when heavy drinking has occurred.

The Council members discussed the need to urge parents to take an active role in encouraging their students to have a “buddy” agree to watch over them. They felt that promoting the buddy system would be guidance other parents would welcome. It was suggested the buddy system be featured in the fall 2002 newsletter and that it accompany an article written from a parents’ perspective. Tony Ryan volunteered to write the parent’s perspective. The Council also suggested adding information to the Parent Handbook.

ACTION ITEM: Nicky to include “buddy system” as an article in fall 2002 *Parent Connection*, including Tony Ryan’s perspective. Also, consideration made for inclusion in the 2002 Handbook.

Discussion Items by Functional Areas

Leadership Development:

Ellie Jorritsma asked the members for a vote on Council member term limits. Suggested options included:

- A 4-year term
- Two 2-year terms
- One 3-year term with the option of one 1-year extension
- A term that lasts as long as a member’s student is at Cal Poly
- One three year term followed by a year off and the possibility for another 3 year term

The Council voted for one 3-year term with the option of one 1-year extension.

Nicky Nickelsen thanked the members for contacting parent volunteers in their area who expressed an interest in the Council via the WOW surveys. Hopefully, interested parents will be available to attend the summer or fall meetings. The Council members reiterated that a “mentor” program of some sort should be started to orient new members. They felt providing information on the history of programs or initiatives in advance would not only be helpful to new members, but would minimize time spent during the meetings answering questions and bringing everyone “up to speed” as items are discussed.

Nicky Nickelsen asked the Council members to nominate a member for Vice Chair prior to the summer meeting. Members eligible for nomination to the Vice Chair position will become Chair following their year of service as Vice Chair.

ACTION ITEM: Nicky to send an e-mail to Council members listing those eligible for nomination.

Events:

The dates of upcoming campus events involving parents were announced including WOW (September 14 and 15) and Parents’ Day (November 2). **Since the April meeting, Parents’ Day has been moved to October 26, 2002.**

Communications:

Nicky Nickelsen asked members to consider what sort of information they would like to see in the fall 2002 *Parent Connection* newsletter and the *Parent Handbook*, which does have

room for some minor revisions. Some ideas provided at the meeting included better information about housing. Nicky asked for members to e-mail her specific suggestions on how housing information can be improved. It was suggested information be provided on what things to plan for before starting the search for housing (i.e. finding roommates, agreeing on a dollar maximum for rent, discussing the size/number of rooms, etc.). Other suggestions for publications included: the impact the fee increase is having on students, a landlords perspective on housing and study abroad information.

Fund Development:

The Parent Fund continues to do well, bringing in an increasing level of private support to the university. Nicky thanked Ellie for her conscientious efforts to enhance the university's message to parents through the Parent Fund solicitation letters.

Carol Ahlem, Council member and generous supporter of Cal Poly, was thanked and provided with a Cal Poly History Book in honor of her four years of service to the university and to the Parent Program. Carol and her husband Jim volunteered countless hours hosting events at the Hilmar Cheese Company for Central Valley alumni and parents. Juggling the schedules of two Cal Poly students and one high school and newly admitted Cal Poly student, Carol and Jim made multiple trips, sometimes on the same weekend, in order to be available to host parents of other students. Carol's wise advice as a member of the Council, and as a parent, enriched our discussions about how to effectively communicate with and provide meaningful events for parents. Carol, your service on the Council and continued support of Cal Poly is very much appreciated. THANK YOU!

Renne & Bob Sutter were also thanked and provided with a Cal Poly History Book in honor of their years of service on the Council. As did Carol, Renne and Bob stayed an extra year on the Council in order to provide continuity for new members. Both Renee and Bob always had creative ideas as to what sorts of practical pieces of information could be provided to parents in order to help them better support their student's success. Being involved in their student's progress allowed them to share their knowledge about the resources Cal Poly provides to students with other parents. They also did a wonderful job of welcoming new Council members to the group. Bob and Renne, your service on the Council and continued support of Cal Poly is very much appreciated. THANK YOU!

Ellie Jorritsma thanked the Council members for a wonderful experience as Chair. She indicated that, initially, she was nervous about assuming the position, but felt that it turned out to be an enjoyable opportunity, and one that allowed for personal growth. She indicated it was a pleasure working with everyone and expressed her confidence in Diane Ryan's ability to be an effective and successful leader of the Council.

Adjournment

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 20, 2002. Information will be forthcoming. Ellie Jorritsma adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am.

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

Nicky Nickelsen