

Cal Poly Parent Program Advisory Council Meeting

April 27, 2003

Alumni House Conference Room
Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

MINUTES

Attending

Council Members – Kirk Brewer, Mary Cox, Mike Cox, Connie Friel, John Friel, Bobbe Michallik, Walter Michallik, Diane Ryan, Tony Ryan, Jennifer Stuppi, Paul Stuppi, Crystal Williams

Staff – Dr. Cornel Morton, Nicky Nickelsen

Student Assistant: Evann Gastaldo

Guests – Gloria Edelen, Floyd Watson, Maryann Watson

Welcome/Introduction

Diane Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Diane welcomed the Council members and introduced parent guests: Gloria Edelen and Floyd and Maryann Watson. She provided everyone with a gift of Orange Slices candy, meant to represent her home of Orange County, as a thank you gift for allowing her to represent the Council as Chair.

Minutes of the winter 2003 Council meeting were approved.

University Update

Dr. Morton welcomed the Council members back to campus and began his update by reporting that the University recently entered into a partnership with Capstone Development Corporation to build a 2,700-bed housing complex on campus by fall of 2006. Capstone is a private developer that works with colleges nationwide to finance housing projects. The complex will include approximately 2,000 parking spaces (2 structures) and 36,000 square feet of support service space for recreation, foundation services and administrative services. Since the project will be built on acreage currently used by Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, the partnership includes a transfer of 1,254 acres of off-campus agricultural land back to the college. This land is located North of the Cuesta Grade and includes 277 acres of premium grapes, equestrian facilities, a caretaker's house and open grazing areas. Since State funds cannot be used for housing projects, \$225 million in bonds will be issued. Dr. Morton distributed a summary sheet, which explains the partnership and describes its benefits. Students will have a 12-month lease and rent will likely range from \$575 to \$650.

Dr. Morton indicated that the CSU will likely face a second round of budget reductions. As the system faces \$300 million in budget cuts, fee increases are also very likely. Cal Poly's share of the budget cuts amounts to about \$14.9 million. In March, the Student Affairs Division was asked to plan for a 7.8% reduction. Academic Affairs was asked to plan for a 6.7% reduction. Now, the University may expect an additional \$1-1.5 million reduction, impacting classes and student services.

Kirk Brewer asked is there is an opportunity for students to pass an initiative authorizing a "surcharge" of \$800-1000. A surcharge has not been discussed; but, the students already passed a college based fee initiative in 2002. The CSU is looking at scenarios that include a 25%-35% increase in tuition next year.

Walter Michallik inquired as to what percentage of the budget is allocated for human resources. Dr. Morton indicated about 90% for Academic Affairs and about 85% for Student Affairs.

The University is prioritizing reductions as follows:

1. Save staff/faculty
2. Continue to fund mandatory or compliance-related expenses
3. Save programs vital to student services

Mike Cox indicated that the State of California has money available that they are dedicating to energy research. Last year, they gave away only \$4 million of approximately \$62 million. Mike suggested that Cal Poly attempt to look into ways to collect funding for its Agriculture, Science Engineering programs. **Mike to get this information to Cornel.**

Connie Friel inquired as to how the University approach admissions under a restrictive budget scenario. The University is funded for a specified amount of full-time equivalent (FTE's) students. One approach is to reduce the actual number of students on campus while being funded for 300-400. For instance, the University may receive funding for 17,400, but enroll 17,000. Other approaches include:

- Locate adjunct part-time faculty to teach
- Admit a smaller first year class next year
- Improve retention and graduation

The Student Success Council is focusing on this to the extent that it is identifying resources to help students with systemic/organizational issues such as senior project, advising, change of major, etc.

Paul Stuppi inquired if a \$600 increase will help buffer against budget reductions. Programs and services wouldn't be diminished to the extent that students wouldn't notice dramatic changes.

Walt Michallik inquired as to whether further increases in tuition might make it more difficult for capable students who can't afford a UC or a private school to attend a CSU. His fear is that those who need to be here "are excluded." Dr. Morton indicated this is a concern. It is important to continue to advocate for funding of higher education since our economic viability is tied up in students' education. California also has to deal with a next generation of young people who may be underrepresented in higher education.

Connie Friel raised the issue of K-12 readiness. The CSU provides 70% of the teachers. It's critical to find and keep individuals interested in and excited about teaching. Unfortunately, the budget has implications that are like "tentacles that reach out and touch everything."

The issue of retention was discussed, Cal Poly's being 65%-68% compared to Davis' 80%-85%. Next fall, the University is implementing Poly Progress, a degree audit system students can use to monitor their progress.

Walt Michallik indicated payment for tuition was confusing spring quarter. This was due to the fee increase. Tuition is posted on the Web; this is a good place for the most current information since it will likely change with further fee increases. The Parent Program will use other means to get information out to parents regarding where to go for fee information. With mailings only twice per year, this can be a challenge. Students can sign a form at Student Accounts to allow a designee have access to account information.

General Discussion

During his fall address, the President presented three themes the University should focus on: student success, diversity and civility. Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Paul Zingg formed a Council and a template to monitor and report on student success. The template outlines what the University is doing systemically to meet student objectives and serves as Cal Poly's contract with the Chancellor's office and the students.

John Friel inquired as to the value this process has to the student. It reinforces the expectation that student success is being placed forefront. Bringing visibility to student success is a process that is being tied to specific expectations. The Council and statements made in the templates come to life to the extent that the colleges, departments and various divisions make use of them.

Dr. Morton shifted the discussion to the value of diversity in higher education, comparing the demographics of Cal Poly to the CSU and SLO County to statewide averages. (60% white at Cal Poly compared to 39% white across the CSU; 76% white and 24% non-white in SLO county compared to 47% white and 53% non-white statewide). Cal Poly's statement on diversity and an article "Being Black at Cal Poly: What it's Like" was distributed to the Council. Dr. Morton discussed the impact diversity or lack thereof can have on every student's educational experience and life beyond college. Employers desire graduates who demonstrate the ability to work with other people, solve problems, work well in teams and value gender and ethnic diversity. He emphasized that students are more prepared for the rapidly changing global society that awaits them when they experience and come to value diversity.

The Council engaged in a lengthy discussion. Members raised the issue of the challenges that come with "categorizing." Asking students to identify with one group on a form, for instance, may place them in the position of acknowledging the ethnic background of one parent and denying that of the other. Members also suggested ways the Parent Program or the University might discuss the topics of student success, diversity and civility – via an article in the newsletter, and endorsement by the Council, information on the Web site, outreach of some sort to students, speakers and Q & A with students. The Council agreed this is a topic that would lend itself to further discussion/ideas, perhaps during the next meeting.

Discussion Items by Functional Areas

Communications:

Topics for the fall 2003 newsletter were discussed. Nicky Nickelsen asked the Council to send her any additions or revisions they have for the Parent & Supporters handbook, as a new edition will be created this summer.

Evann Gastaldo and Nicky Nickelsen provided the Council with a proposed site map for a revised Parent Program Web site along with questions to consider. A few pages of the site were shown online. The Council made a number of very helpful suggestions, which will be documented and kept for use when revisions are made. **Council members were encouraged to send Nicky any further thoughts about the Web site, handbook or newsletter by e-mail.**

Leadership Development:

A Vice Chair has not been selected. Nicky will follow-up by e-mail when a nomination process has been determined.

Events:

The Council discussed Admitted Students' Day and Open House. It was nice to involve new parent volunteers.

Dates for the following events were announced:

NSWE- August 17

WOW – Sept 13 and 14

Parents' Day – Nov. 1 (possibly a weekend Friday, Oct 31 and Saturday, Nov. 1)

Fund Development:

Nicky Nickelsen will e-mail the most recent Parent Fund results to the Council.

Adjournment

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 12, 2003. Information will be forthcoming. Diane Ryan adjourned the meeting at Noon.

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

Nicky Nickelsen