

# Cal Poly Parent Program Advisory Council Meeting

Saturday, April 23, 2005  
University Union, Room 220  
Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

## MINUTES

### **ATTENDING**

Council Members – Paul Bittick, John Cotter, Melanie Dreike, Gloria Edelen, Connie Friel, John Friel, Virginia Genovese, Bob Rivoire, Francis Rivoire, Carolyn Thom, Thanos Trezos, Crystal Williams, Kenneth Williams, Robbie Williams

Staff – Cornel Morton, Nicky Nickelsen, Theresa Rush

Parent Guests – Chris Patubo, Pat Patubo

### **WELCOME/INTRODUCTION**

John Friel called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. He welcomed all and led introductions. John Cotter was acknowledged as the Council's newest appointed member and will serve through January 2008. Cards were made available to sign for Pat Keeley, who is recovering from surgery; Ed Czisny, who is recovering from an injury; and Maryann and Floyd Watson who were absent due to a family emergency. Our thoughts are with those members.

Motions to approve the minutes from the February meeting as written were made by Paul Bittick and Bob Rivoire. They were approved.

The Council briefly discussed the Admitted Students' Day programming. Comments were as follows:

- The Parent Handbooks were valuable and popular.
- Attendance at the Web sessions and parent panels was low due to college programming and other activities happening simultaneously.
- The coffeehouse was very effective. As always it allowed parents the opportunity to meet and talk with other parents. However, it ended an hour before the student activities were finished, causing parents to have to wait around for their students.
- The Council meetings should be publicized as open sessions, especially during weekends when events are held.
- 4 PM - 7 PM was down time. It was suggested programming be scheduled during this time.
- Focus on Web site and sign-ups for e-news.

### **UNIVERSITY UPDATE**

#### **Spring 2006 Commencement**

Cornel Morton began his update by announcing the commencement format for the June 2006 ceremony will be altered due to the renovation of Cal Poly's Mustang Stadium. Traditionally, the university offers a mid-morning and an afternoon ceremony on a Saturday. Next year, there will very likely be eight ceremonies held throughout the weekend. The renovation is made possible by a generous gift from Cal Poly alumnus Alex Spanos, who was a drum major during his time as a student. Each year, the commencement committee plans for approximately 2,500 graduates and 25,000 guests. Due to the volume of people on campus, the committee is recommending that the University offer college-based ceremonies in venues that accommodate smaller numbers.

#### **Student Success Initiatives**

Cornel provided an update on the First-Year Experience program. Currently, the Division of Student Affairs provides a first-year experience "living and learning program" in the residence halls. 300 students self-select into the program. Beginning fall 2005, the program will be expanded to reach 1,000 - 1,500 students. This program offers opportunities to meet and work with faculty, who provide encouragement and advocacy to students; professionals; and other students in the college. The Council on Student Success' first-year experience study group is developing plans for a first-year experience program that all first-year students would take, possibly for one or two credits. The design of the program builds upon the First-Year Connection (FYC) program currently offered in the residence halls, as well as programs offered at other universities. Cal Poly's FYC program is designed to provide incoming students with the information, resources and support needed to be academically and personally successful at Cal Poly. Residents participate in an extended campus orientation program which offers opportunities for shared experiences. There are also increased opportunities to get involved with leadership, community service and social activities in the halls. The goal is to improve student retention and success.

Cornel, along with Jean De Costa, dean of students, Denise Campbell, associate vice president for student affairs and Preston Allen, assistant vice president for student affairs, have been meeting with the college deans during winter quarter to share the division's vision statement, "Investing In Greatness" as well as its mission statement, and to encourage collaboration and partnership on co-curricular programs. He also met with senior and middle-management groups to discuss the division's strategic planning process and its four key pillars: **Advocating, Building, Learning and Enhancing.**

#### **Trial-Run Alcohol Service at Baseball Games**

The University will begin selling alcohol at baseball games on a trial basis starting April 29. ASI President Blake Bolton was instrumental in advocating for alcohol sales on behalf of students who are of legal age. The sale of beer at baseball games will occur in an enclosed area, with a limit to the number of beers sold to each person. Beer service will end at a specified time during the game. The residence halls are dry and there are no plans to develop a campus pub at this time.

Melanie Dreike expressed concern that students are receiving mixed messages about alcohol use. In addition, in talking with students, she says they have told her they feel like they are receiving mixed messages about alcohol and their status as adults.

#### **ASI Fee Referendum**

Cal Poly students voted on two fee referendums on April 20-21. Both referendums were defeated. Approximately 30% of the student body voted. The programming component of the referenda was defeated by a vote of 2,574 "yes" (49.3%), 2,650 "no" (50.7%). The University Union component of the referendum was defeated by a vote of 1,969 "yes" (37.1%), 3,333 "no" (62.9%). The UU component would have provided a new student facility at the current site of the building which houses the campus market. It would have also provided for significant renovations to the University Union. The programming component would have provided funding for club activities. If both had passed fees would have increased \$120-\$130 per quarter over several years.

Bob Rivoire inquired about the "yes" campaign. He indicated that he heard some students felt the "yes" campaign wasn't representative of the student body - that it was not a neutral campaign.

The campaign began as informational in nature. A week or so prior to the election, ASI leadership shifted their message to a "yes" campaign, advocating for a vote in favor of the renovation. This approach was taken on the understanding that students said they wanted

improved facilities when surveyed last fall. 98% of 4,440 respondents to a student survey conducted during fall 2004 by an independent consultant said they believed improvements to ASI-managed facilities would increase the overall quality of life at Cal Poly. Some students challenged the “yes” approach, although the campaign was conducted without violating policy.

Thanos Trezos suggested lobbying the state for support. Cornel briefly explained the “three-legged” stool of finance - how funding is generated from students, tuition and fundraising. He also explained the referenda process and how they come about.

John Friel asked student representative Jordan Whaley to provide his perspective with regard to the ASI referenda and the beer sales at baseball games.

Jordan indicated he was in favor of the Student Activity Fee that will be used to provide additional funding for the many non-instructionally related activities, sport clubs and general interest social clubs that have operated with little or no budget in the past. However, he was not in favor of ASI – Managed Facility Fee which includes provisions for renovating the University Union, expanding the Recreation Center and building a new student activity center near Campus Market. He feels that many students may not have researched all the issues involving the referenda.

Jordan indicated he is in favor of beer sales at the baseball games. He feels attendance would be higher if beer was served. However, he agreed students are getting mixed messages on the issue of alcohol. For instance, a student cannot bring a bottle of wine for a class presentation on a related topic because of the campus alcohol policies; yet, they are able to purchase it at certain venues.

### **PARENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

The Council noted that topics suggested in February for inclusion in the spring newsletter were included. These articles were a column from Cal Poly’s Chief of Police and a Q&A piece about policies and forms related to obtaining student information from Cal Poly. Melanie Dreike offered to compose a piece for the “From A Parents’ Perspective” column for the fall newsletter.

Nicky Nickelsen indicated the Parent Program is continuing to work on a migration of the Parent Program’s parent data to University Advancement’s Advance C/S database. Once the information is migrated, parents will be asked to verify and/or update their information by way of an online form so that they may continue receiving e-newsletters. This process will ensure University Advancement has the necessary information on file to include them in their database. Once this migration process is complete, the Parent Program will begin looking at Web-based e-news services. Updates and requests for Council member feedback will come by way of e-mail.

### **COUNCIL OFFICERS**

The Council voted Paul Bittick as Vice Chair for the 2005-06 academic year.

### **PARENT COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING**

The “parking lot” items created at previous meetings were briefly reviewed and it was agreed each had been addressed or could be discussed in conjunction with the implementation of a new e-news service.

The topic of term limits was raised and members were asked to express their thoughts about changes. Currently members serve a three-year term. In the past, during a transition of staff at Cal Poly, the Council voted to allow a one-year renewal, but this practice was not written into the bylaws. The Council agreed to continue the three-year term. If a member wished to return to serve another term after a year or more off, it was noted that the bylaws do not restrict doing so.

John Friel asked the Council to review the functional responsibilities. The members seemed to be in favor of continuing to use the document as written. Nicky Nickelsen will update to reflect changes as is necessary.

John suggested holding the goals discussion for the July meeting. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve as Chair indicating he accomplished the objectives he set. He welcomed Frances to the role as she begins her term in July.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Possible dates for the summer meeting are Saturday, July 9, 16, 23 and 30. Please respond to Theresa Rush at [trush@calpoly.edu](mailto:trush@calpoly.edu) with your preference so we may schedule a date.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

John Friel adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Please forward additions or corrections to [calpolyparent@calpoly.edu](mailto:calpolyparent@calpoly.edu). Thank you.  
Respectfully submitted,

Nicky Nickelsen  
Theresa Rush