

CAL POLY PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday, January 31, 2009

Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center
Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

MINUTES

PRESENT

Parent Members – Cynthia Boriskin, Rob Boriskin, Yvonne Chavez, Marcus Cooke, Barbara Damerel, Steve DeBranch, Tonya DeBranch, Debbie Hertzog, Ron Hunnewell, John Jernigan, Karen Jernigan, John Jones, Ron Jue, Teresa Jue, Linda Kuroda, Susan McKinley, Randy Otsuji, Pat Saley, Jeanne Stone

Student Members – Dan Kinsel, Antonio Ramirez

Parent Guests – Cynthia Bauer, Denise Comstock, Harold Caudle, Shari Caudle, Judy Lee, Doris Moberg, Ira Scharfglass

Staff – Dr. Cornel Morton, Nicky Nickelsen, Jessica Todd, Kim Gannon, Susan Rains

Guests – Dan Rivoire (SLO County Bicycle Coalition), Laura Butler (Graduate Assistant, Orientation Programs)

NOT PRESENT

Parent Members – Connie Katz, Ira Katz, Patti Pasetta, Chris Patubo, Pat Patubo, Ross Whitt, Terri Whitt

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND NEW MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Barbara called the meeting to order at 8:56 a.m. The following parent guests were welcomed: **Cynthia Bauer**, parent of Richard Bauer (Aero Space Engineering) from Woodland, CA; **Denise Comstock**, parent of Nicole Comstock (Food Science) from San Diego, CA; **Harold and Shari Caudle**, parents of Hillary Caudle (Art and Design) and David Caudle (Aero Space Engineering) from Sunnyvale, CA; **Judy Lee**, parent of Adam Buttgenbach (CAFES Alum) and Alex Buttgenbach (Ag. Business) from La Canada, CA; **Doris Moberg**, parent of Craig Moberg (Business) and Diana Moberg (English) from Los Altos, CA and **Ira Scharfglass**, parent of Kerry Scharfglass (Computer Engineering) from Los Gatos, CA.

The following new members were appointed: **Steve and Tonya DeBranch**, parents of Brad DeBranch (City and Regional Planning) from Bakersfield; **Susan McKinley**, parent of Allen McKinley (Architecture) from Reno, Nevada; **Jeanne Stone**, parent of Andrew (Civil Engineering), Daniel (Architectural Engineering) and Michael (Architecture) from Irvine. **Antonio Ramirez**, a psychology major from Guadalupe is the ASI student body representative.

UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Cornel Morton, Vice President for Student Affairs

Cornel welcomed everyone. He thanked the Parent Advisory Council members for their leadership. The fact that we have new parents interested in joining the Parent Advisory Council on a steady basis is a product that leadership. He thanked everyone as well for their leadership and advocacy on behalf of higher education. As California struggles with a \$42 billion deficit that continues to grow, all levels of education are at risk. Investing in education is critical to California's economic vitality.

Cornel also thanked the guests for their interest in the Parent Advisory Council. He acknowledged that the life of a group like this can only remain robust and relevant to the extent that new ideas are welcomed and shared. He thanked the guests for taking time to come forward to learn more about the university and consider further involvement.

GREEK LIFE SUMMIT AND RECENT STUDENT TRAGEDIES

Cornel talked about the recent student deaths which occurred fall quarter. He indicated that no loss of life within the student body goes without real notice and pain. We make a concerted effort to ensure the families are taken care of in ways that are helpful to them – offering anything they need as they deal with the unthinkable. Staff members in the Dean of Students office, the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and Student Life and Leadership are among those who offer support to the families.

The Greek Life Summit ties back to the student tragedies because one of the students, Carson Starkey, was a freshman pledge who lost his life to alcohol poisoning following a hazing incident at a fraternity party. He indicated that Carson pledged the fraternity at his own free will and wanted to become a member. The fact that he lost his life was no fault of his own. As a result of this incident, the agenda for Cal Poly's annual Greek Life Summit, held January 9-11, was dedicated to serious and candid discussions about Greek life pledge events.

Seventy to 80 leaders – including fraternity and sorority presidents from each of Cal Poly's Greek organizations - attended. Cornel indicated that he attended as well, along with Dan Howard-Greene, President Baker's Chief of Staff, the Dean of Students, the coordinator for the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and staff from Student Life and Leadership, the San Luis Obispo Police Department and the University Police Department. Antonio Ramirez, our ASI student representative to the Parent Advisory Council, was also present.

The discussion focused on how alcohol affects students' academic experience and how its use and abuse will be addressed among the Greek community, especially as it pertains to pledge activities. Staff asked the leaders of each of the Greek organizations to think about and discuss what they plan to do to address the problem of alcohol abuse. Staff urged them to think about what actions they need to take within their organizations and to think about how they can convince the university, through their actions, that they are willing to make the changes that are needed for them to continue to be recognized by the university.

Cornel indicated that the student leaders of Cal Poly's Greek organizations are not bad students, but they need guidance from staff members who can insist on their compliance with university standards and encourage them to be self-reliant and supportive of one another as they lead their organizations. Unfortunately, the students find themselves in a constant battle with public perception. The positive contributions they make are overshadowed by their misbehavior and heavy partying, which translates as a lack of commitment to the university and their education. They will have to work hard to change that perception and to be consistent in their actions.

Another Greek Summit is scheduled for February 7, where a larger group of student leaders from the Greek life community will meet to discuss the university's expectations and to elicit their help in facilitating change. These leaders will be put on notice that they will need to get on board or risk disassociation from the university.

Cornel explained that Greek life organizations are categorized as ISO's (Independent Student Organizations). The ISO's relationship with the university is contractual, meaning the university has no oversight of these organizations. They, however, report to their national organization. Sigma Alpha Epsilon's affiliation with Cal Poly has been suspended. When Cal Poly disassociates itself from an organization, this means that the organization is not allowed to

recruit on campus or participate in activities for campus organizations. It does not, however, guarantee that an organization will cease to exist off campus.

A list of clubs and organizations that have lost their affiliation with Cal Poly can be found on the Greek Life and Parent Program Web sites. Parents are linked to this information when they visit the parent intermediate page on the Cal Poly Web site:

<http://www.calpoly.edu/student/parents.html>

John Jones: John indicated that some of the Council members have students who are members of Greek organizations. He asked if there is anything the Parent Council can do to help. Cornel indicated that providing feedback to him is helpful. Talking to their students about alcohol and to look out for their friends is important. Advising other parents to have these conversations with their students is helpful. Knowing about the organizations they belong to and showing interest in the activities they are involved in is also crucial.

Ira Scharfglass: Ira asked what power the university has over a suspended organization if it continues to operate. Cornel indicated the university has no relationship with or control over organizations that are no longer affiliated with Cal Poly. They can still get together and try to recruit students off campus. Some find it challenging to operate. Others find ways to maintain membership and activities. Sometimes no relationship can seem worse; so, the university does want to try to help the Greek leaders create positive programs within their organizations.

Denise Comstock: Denise commented that SDSU pulled the charters of their Greek organizations, but this did not abolish them.

Susan McKinley: Susan indicated that SDSU no longer has Greek houses. If Cal Poly went this route, what would be the timeline for this sort of action? Cornel indicated that most houses are supported by members or alumni. Cal Poly does not own the houses. This is why some of them continue to exist even after they have lost affiliation with the university.

Cornel indicated that although it is not out of the question, he doesn't believe Cal Poly's Greek Life programs will be eliminated completely. However, if the university does not see evidence of the Greek community's resolve to make changes at the February 7 meeting that possibility may be more seriously considered.

Antonio Ramirez: Antonio indicated that he is a member of the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the governing body of Cal Poly fraternities. SAE, the fraternity Carson Starkey was pledging, is a member chapter for the IFC. On February 7, the IFC will meet to empower the Presidents of each organization to begin to make changes in their organizations by setting goals, benchmarks and developing action plans. On March 4, they will meet again to discuss ways to hold their member organizations to higher standards. The organizations will be asked to show how their activities align with the values upon which fraternities are founded. If there are activities that don't support their values, those should be eliminated. He stated that the January summit helped the Greek leaders recognize that new member education needs to change. The leaders recognized that they need to act promptly and wisely so that their message does not fall on deaf ears.

Dan Kinsel: Dan indicated that he has rushed three times since starting Cal Poly. He didn't join a fraternity, but in each case, he has since noticed how different each of those organizations are today, making the point that organizations on campus change with their membership. Dan indicated that he knows many Greek students are very unhappy with the perception of their

Greek organizations. Five fraternities, which found the recent incident appalling and want be sure it never happens again, approached Orientation Programs staff for assistance in developing a dry rush system similar to that offered during WOW, a sign that they are trying to make changes and feel the WOW model works well.

Karen Jernigan: Karen asked if the media coverage of the recent incidents have been accurate. Cornel indicated that in large part, they have been very accurate.

Judy Lee: Judy indicated that she believes there is a positive side to Greek Life. One of the benefits of Greek Life involvement is the opportunities for peer mentoring. AGR has a faculty advisor and a parent advisory committee and the organization answer to a national fraternity. Judy thinks the news tends to focus on the negatives rather than the positives. She is interested in hearing more about the upcoming Greek meetings.

Ron Jue: Ron is a fraternity alumnus. He served as the safety officer for his fraternity and suggested the Greek organizations consider appointing a member to this type of role in each organization. So much emphasis seems to be on activities that involve alcohol. He feels Greeks need to be encouraged to change their activities to ones that are more service-oriented.

Cornel stated that there are positive indicators the summit was helpful. The challenge is that the Greek Life system is very large and has a diverse membership. The university's reliance on the leaders of each organization is critical. Students are being encouraged to take care of each other and to not fear getting involved to help a student who needs medical care. At the same time, they are being encouraged to stay out of trouble, the message being, "if you do the right thing, everyone will benefit." The university wants students to know that if they are not representing the highest standards of the university, their organizations need to change.

COMMUTER STUDENT SURVEY

Cornel reported that a survey of commuter students was recently completed by the Dean of Students office to assess the quality of student life among the Cal Poly commuter student population. There were 2,000 responses; 53 percent women and 47 percent men. Seventy-five percent of respondents live within 3-4 miles of campus; 50 percent live within one mile of campus. The results found that commuter students want more space on campus to call their own. They want to be able to access services after 5 p.m. and on weekends. Commuter students report enjoying their freedom – they don't miss the oversight from RA's and staff in the residence halls. Students reported that they do miss the conveniences of living on campus, however. Cornel stated that as we move forward, he will keep the Parent Council posted on ways the campus is addressing the needs of this population of students.

CSU COST-SAVING MEASURES AND BUDGET UPDATE

Cornel briefly discussed the CSU's cost-saving measures which have come about as the result of the state budget crisis. Restrictions have been placed on travel, hiring and construction projects. Salary freezes for senior officers are also in place. The fiscal crisis is projected to impact the budget for the next 5-6 years. The CSU is reporting a \$522 million deficit. Cal Poly's portion of that is \$23-25 million. The Student Affairs Division's budget was just reduced by \$237,000 this week, the second cut this year.

Cornel announced that the university will propose two fee increases to students later this quarter: One is an increase in the university's Health Services fee; the second is an increase in the College-Based Academic fee. If approved, the Health Services fee would increase \$30 per quarter to \$87.62 per quarter effective fall 2009. Nine forums will serve as the venues for

gathering written input from students. The fee will fund three additional health professionals and three additional counselors, psychiatric services, an increase of 300 appointments per week available by phone, shorter wait times in urgent care and online services.

The college-based academic is an attempt to close the funding gap that is a result of \$25 million in budget reductions over the past several years, and help students graduate in four years. College based academic fees for full-time students are currently \$252 per quarter for all colleges except the College of Liberal Arts, whose students pay \$156 per quarter. If approved, the fees for full time students would increase to \$362 per quarter effective fall 2009, and then increase by \$100 effective fall 2010, and \$100 effective fall 2011.

Students were notified of the proposal by e-mail on Feb. 9. They will have an opportunity to voice their views through campus forums and then vote electronically via the Cal Poly Portal on March 11 and 12.

Cornel indicated that as state support for higher education declines, the cost to families will increase. The university is continuing its fundraising efforts to increase private support. Student input on both initiatives is advisory to Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker.

Karen Jernigan: Karen asked if the freeze on construction will affect the renovation of the Recreation Center. Cornel indicated it would not as the Recreation Center is paid for by student fees. The construction freeze may delay the Center for Science and Math and the renovation of the Aquatic Center. All projects currently underway will continue, including the second phase of Poly Canyon Village which is ahead of schedule and will open fall 2009.

Pat Saley: Pat asked how the budget reductions will impact the university's priorities – i.e. cutting other programs before teachers. Cornel indicated that the budget reductions are uneven and they are not as deep for academic affairs. Although the university's mission is the same department to department, the Division of Student Affairs, as an example, usually takes a larger cut than Academic Affairs.

Ira Scharfglass: Ira asked if the increase in student fees comes with a structure that takes into consideration students' ability to pay. Cornel indicated that any campus fee increases will be noted in financial aid reports. In addition, 1/3 of CSU fee increases are set aside for financial aid. The College Based fees are not CSU wide fees; they are unique to Cal Poly but they will also be subject to the 1/3 set aside for financial aid. .

Judy Lee: Judy asked if President Obama's proposed stimulus package will benefit Cal Poly in any way. Cornel indicated it is too early to tell, but that he would look into that and get back to the Parent Council.

Jeanne Stone: Jeanne asked if Cal Poly has seen a decrease in applications. Cornel indicated Cal Poly has not. The university received between 35-37,000 applicants for approximately 3,500 new student spaces and 800 transfer student spaces. The CSU enrolled 10,000 more students than it had funding for last fall. 10,000 – 20,000 qualified students will not be admitted to the CSU for fall 2009 due to budget limitations.

Debbie Hertzog: Debbie asked about the size of the out-of-state population. Cornel indicated that the number of out-of-state applicants is on the rise. Not dramatic growth but incremental growth.

Pat Saley: Pat indicated the LA times recently published an article about how California schools are recruiting out-of-state students because they pay higher tuition.

Yvonne Chavez: Yvonne stated that she recently read an article about how SDSU is admitting students based on where they live. Some universities do have service areas. Cal Poly's service area is the entire state of California.

Antonio Ramirez: Antonio indicated that Associated Students, Inc. does some lobbying and does advise the university on fee increases.

Susan McKinley: Susan stated that in Nevada, there is a significant brain drain problem. A millennium scholarship was initiated to offer prepaid tuition plans.

Cornel indicated that Cal Poly has a unique mission in the CSU including more high cost programs. We continue to make the case for recognizing the distinctive nature of Cal Poly's mission.

BUSINESS ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motions to approve the October meeting minutes were made by John Jones and Yvonne Chavez. They were approved with the meeting location noted as the Poly Canyon Village Conference Room, not the Alumni Relations Conference Room.

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE POSITION

Nicky indicated there are plans to add a faculty representative to the Parent Advisory Council, although one has not yet been appointed. The term will be for one year. The Division of Student Affairs holds an annual recognition program for staff and faculty outside of the division who collaborate with Student Affairs. This list will be used as a starting point for identifying a faculty representative.

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE POSITION

The Cal Poly Alumni Association (CPAA) is the umbrella organization for Cal Poly alumni whose mission is to engage, serve and connect alumni with the campus community and fellow alumni.

Kim Gannon, Director of Alumni Relations, greeted the members and indicated that she was invited to discuss the Alumni/Parent Liaison position that exists on the Parent Program Advisory Council and the CPAA Board of Directors. The position has been vacant for several years. It has been a challenge defining the role of the liaison and then locating an alumni parent who is available to attend all of the annual meetings of both organizations.

Jeanne Stone's appointment to the Parent Advisory Council provided an opportunity to fill the position with a well qualified and informed candidate who could help define the liaison role. Jeanne is an alumna. Her husband Ken, who is also an alumnus, serves on the CPAA Board of Directors. They have two children currently attending Cal Poly and another starting this fall. Because of their long standing involvement in the CPAA, Jeanne's recent appointment to the Parent Council, and the fact that frequent travel to San Luis Obispo is very likely, Jeanne was asked to serve as the Alumni/Parent Liaison. She has accepted the position.

Kim distributed a copy of the CPAA bylaws, which references the Alumni Parent Liaison position. It was referenced during the Parent Program's bylaws revision exercise. She also distributed the CPAA's membership information.

The CPAA role also extends to students since they are our future leaders. By creating a strong connection with students, Kim explained they will be aware that the Alumni Association is available to support them after they graduate. Parents are an important part of encouraging a student's involvement in the university and in taking advantage of the benefits their Alumni Association membership can offer them following graduation.

Antonio Ramirez: Antonio asked Kim to explain how actively involved Cal Poly alumni tend to be. Kim stated that because involvement occurs on many levels, it is difficult to gauge. The CPAA's current outreach efforts extend to about 140,000 alumni. She explained that the CPAA Board consists of 33 members. They are the core leadership group. The CPAA has 15 chapters which have varying levels of volunteer involvement and alumni participation. Alumni also serve on college or department-based advisory boards and return to campus to recruit for their employers or to speak on career panels. About 14,000 alumni are CPAA members. Many are also donors or attend Cal Poly events. Cal Poly alumni are also involved in advocacy, encouraging students to apply to the university, or working with legislators to improve the quality of education. A growing number of alumni are part of PolyLink, Cal Poly's online community for alumni, which provides news from the university and opportunities to be involved in the life of the university.

Nicky indicated the Parent Program works with the CPAA on many initiatives including providing volunteers for their New Student Welcome Events, attending alumni staff meetings and featuring information from the CPAA in the Parent Program e-newsletter.

Barbara Damerel: Barbara stated that her daughter has been receiving phone calls asking her if she was interested in a CPAA lifetime membership. The calling didn't sound like they were the usual Cal Poly student callers. Kim verified that the CPAA does have a telephone marketing campaign going on which offers membership to alumni. The callers are from a contracted company.

Susan McKinley: Susan asked if Kim is the appropriate contact for the New Student Welcome Events. Kim indicated she is; however, these events may no longer be offered due to significant decline in attendance over the past two years and the expansion and timing of SOAR.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMS UPDATE

Dan provided a report on changes that will be made to the Orientation Program's format for Open House, SOAR and WOW. The biggest changes involve SOAR and WOW.

The SOAR program, which occurs during the summer, will be expanded to include some of the programming formerly offered during WOW so that students and parents can get the information they need, when they need it—during the summer, before students move-in. WOW Family Orientation Weekend programming, as result, will be scaled down significantly, so that students and parents can focus on moving in, getting settled and spending time together. This year, for the first time, SOAR will include a registration component. In the past, students learned about the registration process at SOAR, but didn't actually register until August. New students will be registered, by the university, for three classes. When then attend SOAR, they will have the opportunity to register for a fourth class. The shift in registration will be campus-wide. Continuing students will be registering for fall classes in May.

In addition, there will be no Resource Fair at WOW Family Orientation Weekend, since this option is available during Open House and SOAR. SOAR will also include more transition

panels, more interaction with faculty and staff, and family sessions with their students. Since the programming emphasis is shifting to SOAR, Orientation Programs will be heavily promoting the importance of attending that program. To make it more convenient for students and families to attend, they will likely offer several dates to attend. In the past, students and families had to come the day their college was having its SOAR session. SOAR may also include an overnight option, making it a 2-day session that starts mid-day on the first day and ends mid-day on the second day. Students may also have the opportunity to stay in the residence halls.

A change in the start of fall classes from a Monday to a Tuesday is causing a shift in the WOW schedule for fall. Fall classes start Tues., Sept 22. As a result, WOW has tentatively scheduled student orientation to start Tuesday, Sept. 15 and end Saturday, Sept. 19. Move-in will still happen Sept. 12-13. Programming options are being considered to help keep students busy the Sunday and Monday after WOW. Ideas include anti-alcohol and drug education programs, a movie night and residential life programs. The WOW Family BBQ and Kids Passport activities that usually occur during move-in weekend are currently on hold. Construction plans for the UU area are causing some facilities challenges.

There are as many changes for Admitted Students' Day and Open House weekend. The theme for this year is "Design Your Future." The program will take place April 17-18; the expected attendance is between 30 – 40,000 people. On Friday, Admitted Students' Day, the Parent Program participates in the Resource Fair from 8 am – 3 pm and co-hosts the Parents' Coffeehouse from 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm. Council members host parents all weekend.

Susan McKinley: Susan suggested posting the dates of the orientation events well in advance on their Web sites. Dan indicated he would make a note of this; they have hired several students to update their Web sites, especially since most of the resource information for students will be distributed electronically this year.

Pat Saley: Pat indicated that many parents have already made summer travel plans with their students—many out of the country--by the time the SOAR information is released. The summer between the senior year in high school and college is a very popular time to take a big trip. She indicated that parents really need to know the dates of SOAR as soon as they are admitted so that they can plan accordingly.

BIENNIAL REVIEW OF BYLAWS

Barbara thanked the members for submitting their suggested changes to the bylaws in advance of the meeting. Each section of the document was reviewed. The suggested changes were discussed and noted. Nicky will send out a revised version of the bylaws for comment by e-mail after the meeting. Barbara will call for their approval at the April meeting.

PARENT COUNCIL GUIDE

Based on a survey of members last summer and discussion at the fall meeting, Barbara announced that the Parent Program staff will develop a Parent Council Training Guide to help members feel more comfortable and professional in their role as Cal Poly ambassadors.

She hopes the guide will help new Council members get up to speed on how to represent Cal Poly and serve as a refresher for seasoned veterans. She indicated that since most answers to common FAQs are listed in the *Parent Handbook*, which all members are asked to read, the guide will include answers to more complex questions (i.e. those related to change of major, access to classes, etc.) that are usually referred to staff.

Barbara shared a few e-mail messages she has received from parents via the Contact A Parent link on the Parent Program Web site and made the point that the Parent Advisory Council has a huge impact on how new parents perceive Cal Poly. She hopes that the guide will be helpful in explaining how best to represent the university while providing forthright parent perspectives.

Nicky ask for volunteers to read over the Poly Reps manual for information that might be helpful to include in the Parent Council Guide.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

In 2005, the Division of Student Affairs drafted a strategic plan for the coming 5-6 years. The purpose of the plan was to refresh the division's goals and objectives. This plan was shared with the Parent Council several years ago when it was completed.

Nicky distributed a handout to current members which included the Student Affairs Division's organizational chart, the division's mission and the vision statements, the plan's four ABLE pillars and the plan's five strategic objectives.

Nicky recently revised the Parent Program's action items – the list of programs and services that meet the division's strategic plan objectives. She encouraged members to review these items to ensure the work of the Parent Council is accurately reflected in the plan. Members were asked to e-mail her with any suggestions.

SLO COUNTY BICYCLE COALITION PRESENTATION

Dan Rivoire, Program Coordinator

Dan thanked the Parent Council for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the SLO County Bicycle Coalition. Dan is a Cal Poly alumnus and was a student rep to the Parent Council a few years ago. Dan provided the members with brochures and maps of local bike lanes and trails throughout the county.

The SLO County Bicycle Coalition is a 501C non-profit bicycle advocacy group. Their mission is to transform San Luis Obispo County into a safer and more livable community by promoting cycling and walking for everyday transportation and recreation. They aim to reach out to the community, teach people to stay safe on the road, and to ride.

They offer services to cyclists such as valet bicycle parking at Farmers Market, which promotes and healthy lifestyle and reduces parking congestion. They also offer educational programs such as bicycle workshops and seminars to increase bicycle confidence, safety and knowledge of bicycle laws. Their bi-monthly workshops educate people on how to avoid common traffic situations, therefore empowering them to safely ride their bikes to and from work or school.

Dan indicated that a car can cost about \$7,000/yr to maintain including insurance, parking fees and fuel. Depending on the type of bike one purchases, a bike can have a one time cost of about \$750. Dan indicated that bikes are a good choice for students. The Coalition works with Cal Poly to support bicycle riding as an alternative transportation option.

He encouraged the Parent Council to assist the SLO Bicycle Coalition and UPD with their advocacy efforts by promoting bicycling as an economically viable, healthy, convenient and environmentally friendly transportation option when speaking to parents of new students.

COMMUTER SERVICES PRESENTATION

Susan Rains, University Police Department, Commuter and Access Services Coordinator

Susan Rains began her presentation by echoing Dan's comments. She indicated that there are many alternative transportation options available to students, faculty and staff. The University Police Department's (UPD's) Commuter Services office helps promotes these.

SLO Transit, the local bus service, provides free transportation to all students and staff. This service is fully funded by Cal Poly parking revenues (\$322,000). The Regional Transit, which runs from Paso Robles to Santa Maria, offers bus service at a reduced cost.

Amtrak departs from the SLO station 2-3 times per day and offers a 20% discount to students. Their bus provides transportation to and from the station.

Transportation by air is also available. Students may get to the airport by car or taxi.

With limited campus parking and the addition of Poly Canyon Village apartments, bicycles are becoming more popular on campus. The demand for bicycle racks and lockers therefore, is also on the rise. Bicyclists who leave their bikes in dangerous places are given a warning by UPD's Community Service Officers. Chaining bikes to handrails, for instance, can make it difficult for a person with a disability to use the rail. If the bikes are not in a regulated bike rack, they are at risk of being impounded. It only costs \$10 to get the bike back, but the inconvenience of having the bike impounded serves as a reminder to the students to always use a bike rack even if they have to walk a short distance to find one. Susan indicated that many of the bikes that are impounded or abandoned are never claimed. Cal Poly holds a yearly bike auction in April where these bikes are sold. The proceeds benefit student community service officer programs.

Students are encouraged to register their bikes for free through the UPD. Bike theft is not extremely high on campus, but it does exist. Bike registration provides the UPD with a way to return bikes that are stolen or abandoned to their owners. A student can register their bike anytime and it only takes a few minutes. U-locks are recommended for securing bikes. Students can also rent bike lockers for \$40/yr. The number of lockers are limited and do fill quickly, but students can be placed on a waiting list. This year Cal Poly installed 512 new bike rack spaces, 200 of which are at Poly Canyon Village. The cost of the installed bike racks was around \$150,000.

Cal Poly is working with the SLO County Bicycle Coalition to provide bicycle safety classes for students. Students should be aware of the rules of the road and follow them; citations are issued when they do not. UPD staff and the Community Services Officers find it hard to tell 18-22 year olds that they are not riding their bikes correctly, but the warnings are necessary as there have been many severe bicycle accidents already this year.

Susan reported that students are riding too fast and being thrown over their handle bars, knocking out teeth and sustaining other serious injuries. She indicated that the road to Poly Canyon Village is a fun route, but students really need to slow down for their safety. There is a team of 35 staff working on a project to help improve bicycle safety on campus. One of the biggest challenges is the hilly topography of campus.

As the campus continues to change, there are plans to close the Perimeter Road possibly as far south as Cuesta Avenue. Cal Poly recently closed Via Carta in front of Campus Market and has turned it into a Plaza. The campus recently finished the railroad safety trail along California Boulevard. It used to be an off-road bicycle trail and is now paved. The city is still working a new stop sign in that area.

Marcus Cooke: Marcus said he had seen several modern looking bike racks on campus and wondered if they were exclusive to Cal Poly. Susan indicated that yes, Cal Poly industrial engineering professor Rodney Hoadley designed them. The City of SLO uses them as well.

Debbie Hertzog: Debbie inquired about the location of the impounded bikes. Impounded bikes are located in a locked storage yard behind the University Police Department.

Judy Lee: Judy asked which roads are planned to close. Grand Avenue will close at Perimeter Road to at least Via Carta but possibly all the way down to Campus Way.

Susan McKinley: Susan asked if more bike racks were being added along with the second phase of Poly Canyon. Additional bike racks have been added for the second phase of Poly Canyon Village since demand was higher than expected when Phase 1 was opened.

Barbara Damerel: Barbara said that her daughter used Amtrak to travel to and from Pasadena and found it very convenient. It also provided additional study time.

Judy Lee: Judy asked how students go about getting the Amtrak discount. Susan replied that students receive a 20% discount by using the school code which is V363. The tickets must be purchased three days in advance. The discount is not valid on the Coast Starlight but works on the Pacific Surfliner.

Cyndy Bauer: Cyndy inquired about Amtrak departure times. Susan advised her to check online for current departure times. Dan Kinsel added that he takes the train to San Diego and it only leaves in the early mornings. Susan also indicated that some of the routes are by bus, some are by train, and some are a combination of both bus and train.

Nicky asked Susan what was the standard University Police Department's answer to the common question of, "does my student need a car on campus?" Susan stated that they don't necessarily need a car unless they work late at night. Freshman can get used to not having a car the first year.

Debbie Hertzog: Debbie said that her son is a third-year student and still does not need a car. In a pinch, he has found that a cab works great.

Susan added that Beach Cities Cab is very student-oriented and only costs about \$4. It runs from 7 pm to 4 am. She also stated that there is a campus shuttle service available from dusk to midnight. There are three pick up locations: the Library, the University Union and the business building.

Antonio Ramirez: Antonio indicated that there is a new service (about 2-3 months old) by the name of "Night Rider" that runs from Madonna to Downtown to Cal Poly. This is a joint service provided by the Greeks and Ride-on transportation services. It is student run and is free to Cal Poly students. Antonio also indicated that fraternity AGR offers sober rides home to students.

Barbara Damerel: Barbara indicated that commuter services information is in the *Parent Handbook* on pages 82 and 83.

John Jones: John said Santa Barbara has a bike harbor and wanted to know if we are considering a bike line through our campus. Susan indicated that if we are, it would be listed in the master plan. That extensive a project may not happen for a while.

Dan Kinse!: Dan said Bicycle Coalition is an awesome resource. The Cal Poly Wheelmen also provide free bike repairs and free reflectors for students on campus several times a year.

Cyndy Bauer: Cyndy wanted to know if the bike racks were available on a first come, first served basis. Yes, that is the case, except for the bike lockers.

CLOSING REMARKS AND AJOURNMENT

Barbara announced the next upcoming event is Admitted Students' Day/Open House on April 17 and 18. Nicky will be sending out a schedule. She adjourned the meeting at 1:55 pm.

Please forward additions or corrections to calpolyparent@calpoly.edu.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nona Nickelsen and Jessica Todd