

Cal Poly Parent Program Advisory Council Meeting

February 1, 2003

University Union Conference Room
Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

MINUTES

Attending

Council Members – Kirk Brewer, Perilla Brewer, Mary Cox, Pat Keeley, Betty Long, Bobbe Michallik, Walter Michallik, Barbara McRae, Diane Ryan, Tony Ryan, Jennifer Stuppi, Paul Stuppi, Crystal Williams

Staff – Dr. Cornel Morton, Nicky Nickelsen

Student Assistant: Autumn Pearson

Guests – Franklyn Silva, Henricka Silva

Welcome/Introduction

Diane Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Diane welcomed the Council members and invited the group to observe a moment of silence in honor of the astronauts aboard the space shuttle Columbia and their families.

Motions to approve the minutes of the summer and fall 2002 Council meetings were made by Paul Stuppi and Barbara McRae. The Council approved the minutes as written.

Diane distributed post-it notes to each of the Council members to use to record thoughts and ideas during the discussion of agenda items. She asked the Council member to share those thoughts or turn them in at the end of the meeting, if time does not permit their discussion. She thanked Mary Cox for providing a thorough list of suggestions following the last meeting regarding the Parents' Day event.

Diane asked the Council members for feedback on the structure of the meetings and allotted time. Specifically, she asked if members felt the meetings should be lengthened in order to get through the agenda and allow ample time for discussion. She cited that meetings as long as 2 years ago lasted 4-5 hours long and indicated that, since then, the meetings have been structured to last 3 hours. Walt Michallik indicated that he feels the current structure and allotted time for the meetings works well. Barbara McRae suggested scheduling meetings later in the morning on weekends when the Council is not already in town for an event. The option of a Saturday afternoon meeting was suggested as well. Kirk Brewer suggested having an American flag present and reciting the pledge of allegiance at the start of the meetings.

Diane Ryan warmly welcomed parent guests Franklyn & Henricka Silva from Saugus, CA. Their son Seth Silva is a freshman enrolled in the College of Engineering. Introductions were made by all in attendance.

University Update

Dr. Morton welcomed the Council members back to campus, indicating it has been a busy quarter and he's pleased to provide an update on a number of important topics. He invited the members to ask questions or make comments at any time during his update.

Dr. Morton indicated that, as the members may be aware from media coverage, the CSU is facing budget reductions and fee increases due to the state's budget situation. He said that the state deficit is \$35 billion and the CSU net deficit is \$260 million. This year, Cal Poly is looking at an 8 to 10% budget reduction, which would amount to about \$14 million, compared to a \$4-\$5 million reduction last fiscal year. He reported that, at Cal Poly, the President and the

Provost are working with the deans and faculty and the various divisions in order to address the funding issues. Each is being asked to produce budget scenarios that reflect 5%, 10% and 15% reductions. The Division of Student Affairs is in a particularly tight budget situation since 85% of its budget is allocated to salaries and benefits.

He distributed to the Council a copy of the Governor's proposal for reductions which included plans to reduce student services by 20% and CSU outreach funding by 50%. He also distributed a communication sent to students from Dr. Baker last December, a communication from the CSU Chancellor's Office in response to the Governor's proposal and a communication from Dr. Baker in response to the proposed CSU reductions. He predicted that Cal Poly will likely know more by late spring regarding the amount of the reductions since it takes time for the budget process to move through the various levels of government. Updates on the CSU budget will be posted on the Cal Poly news Web site at www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu as it becomes available.

He indicated that Cal Poly's recent College-based Fee Initiative has brought the colleges about \$12 million in revenue, which is helpful, but those funds have specific restrictions regarding their use. In light of the budget reductions, he said the colleges may find a need to renegotiate the use of these funds with their advisory committees. Kirk Brewer inquired as to whether all CSU campuses experience the same level of reductions. Dr. Morton suggested that the reductions are not proportional, but are likely particular to the needs and mission of each campus. At Cal Poly, 70% of the programs are polytechnic in nature, making the cost the education at this campus higher. Kirk Brewer inquired as to whether the fact that the students passed the College-based Fee Initiative would have any bearing on the amount of reductions Cal Poly might face. Dr. Morton indicated that, unfortunately, the passage of a student sponsored fee increase reinforces the perception that Cal Poly students can afford to pay a bit more. The Chancellor's office advised that no additional fee increases be proposed by the individual campuses.

The CSU system continues to be one of the lowest cost providers of higher education. In the next two to three years 20,000 new students will be admitted to the CSU, representing a 5% growth in enrollment. Last year, Cal Poly enrolled more students than it received funding for and the number of applications continues to increase. How far the University exceeds target enrollment affects the budget. This year alone, 18,000 applications have been denied; 3,000 of those were for students who had perfect GPAs.

Kirk Brewer inquired as to whether the University considers admitting more juniors and, perhaps, fewer freshmen in order to balance the load of students entering and graduating. Dr. Morton indicated that, to his knowledge, the deans tend to support a higher level of enrollment of freshmen compared to transfer students.

Walt Michallik inquired as to the amount of the fee increase for spring quarter classes. He indicated he has not yet received any information. Dr. Morton indicated that the University was to mail notification regarding the fee increase in January and that this notification may be delayed. Barbara McRae indicated that this information is available on MustangInfo, if parents know their student's ID and password. Nicky Nickelsen indicated a fee schedule is also available on the Academic Records Web site.

Dr. Morton announced that Housing & Residential Life Office recently held the housing lottery for Cerro Vista apartments. 800 beds were available for fall 2003 and 1,400 applications were submitted - 1,200 of which included the \$750 deposit - confirming that demand is high and will not be met by this facility alone. A 700-bed complex is scheduled to open in 2006. The University is also in very preliminary, but serious conversation with vendors in the private sector about additional apartment-style housing beyond what the currently scheduled complexes will

provide. Kirk Brewer inquired about the class level requirements for application to the Cerro Vista lottery. Dr. Morton responded that the lottery was open to freshmen who are currently living on campus; so, it will be a complex primarily for sophomores.

Dr. Morton distributed literature addressing the topic of depression among college students. He indicated depressive illnesses – much like substance abuse and other problems on the rise on college campuses - impact students' chances for success. These problems are student life issues with which staff in the Division of Student Affairs are trained and prepared to assist students. Dr. Morton indicated that faculty can often identify troubled students and are encouraged to work with Student Affairs professionals to develop the student academically and socially. Parents may receive calls from their students, expressing their unhappiness or inability to get on board with campus life. He distributed a list of 6 things parents can encourage their students to do to manage feelings of pressure and stress. He made the point that with statistics reporting 30-40% of college student feeling overwhelmed, there are still many things University's can do to be engendering to students, including fostering an environment that supports students' ability to discuss things.

Barbara McRae suggested the tips provided be included in WOW orientation packets. Bobbe Michallik indicated parents could very much use these tips to support their students. Betty Long agreed, indicating that parents can take the initiative to let students know it's OK to lighten the load.

ACTION ITEM: Tips on “helping yourself” to be included in future Parent Program publications and available at orientation and other events.

The Student Success Council has convened and is addressing University programs and progress to degree. The Council is co-chaired by David Conn, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Dr. Morton.

Dr. Morton discussed the Safe Ride program, which provides rides to students Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays when the campus escort service ends. He indicated the Division recently made available 200 free cards to students, a \$5,000 value. Students can purchase cards at the University Police Department or from Safe Ride drivers upon pick-up. Annual passes are \$25.00, rides are \$2.00 each.

In response to questions raised by the Council, Dr. Morton indicated that the CARE team has convened on a number of occasions and is responding to incident reports as they arise.

General Discussion Items

Citing her son, Eric's internship and career experiences, Diane Ryan suggested there be a way parents and alumni be more involved in providing internship and career opportunities or “connections” for students. During a conference call with Rich Equinoa, Director of Career Services, options for doing so were discussed. He was very receptive to parent involvement. Diane reported that Rich suggested parents can best support their students' internship, co-op or career search by encouraging them to use the services the Career Center offers and by listing or encouraging their employer to list opportunities online at Career Services' MustangJobs Web site. This is a site that students, alumni and employers can access to search for or to list jobs. Rich also suggested working with Alumni Relations and using the internet and print communications as tools to let parents know how they can support their students' search. Diane indicated that information will be included in the spring newsletter about the search tools available to students.

Nicky Nickelsen added that Career Services has a counselor available for each college. Many of the counselors have contacts – including alumni - in various industries to whom they refer students. Students are encouraged to visit those counselors for career search assistance.

Discussion Items by Functional Areas

Communications:

Nicky Nickelsen announced that the spring newsletter is nearly complete and is scheduled to drop in the first part of March. Articles include: an introduction by Dr. Morton, an Open House invitation and schedule of special events, academic calendar and articles on: the CSU budget, the College-based fees, the ASI fees, Ombuds services, the CARE team, Career Services, housing, the library's Honor with Books program and continuing education.

She indicated that revisions to the *Parent & Supporters Handbook*, produced in conjunction with the WOW program, would occur late spring/early summer. She indicated the format and much of the content will likely remain the same, but encouraged the Council members to provide suggestions for additions or changes. Handbooks were available for the Council members to make notes in.

ACTION ITEM: Council members to provide feedback to the Parent Program regarding additions or changes to the *Parent & Supporters Handbook*.

Nicky Nickelsen indicated that she plans to work with the Cal Poly Foundation to upgrade the e-mail network database and consider redesigning the Web site. She distributed site maps for the Parent Program Web site and asked the Council members to review the topics on the site and make suggestions for additions or changes. These topics should represent the main areas of the Parent Program in addition to providing information regarding issues most parents have questions about. Some suggestions made at the meeting include: a printable calendar, a search box, a link to the e-mail network/volunteer form on the homepage.

ACTION ITEM: Council members to review current Web site map and make suggestions for additions or changes.

Leadership Development:

Nicky Nickelsen indicated that the Parent Program now has postcards it is sending each volunteer that signs up online or via the paper WOW surveys, acknowledging their willingness to help and letting them know we will be in touch with them. Postcards are sent to parents monthly.

Events:

Nicky Nickelsen indicated that parents in 8 Northeastern states have been invited to a reception event at Carnegie Hall, April 3, the evening of the Cal Poly Wind Orchestra's performance. This event is sponsored by the Cal Poly Alumni Association.

She also reminded the Council members of the dates for Admitted Students' Day and Open House – April 25 and 26th. The Council should plan to volunteer during shifts on Friday, at the Resource Fair Parent Program booth (between 8:14 am and 4:00 pm), at the Parent Coffeehouse (Friday evening TBD) and at the booth on Dexter Lawn, Saturday (between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm). Due to the limited time to meet on Friday and Saturday, the Council decided to meet Sunday morning for the spring meeting. Nicky Nickelsen indicated the Parent Program would attempt to involve additional volunteers who have expressed an interest in helping at events, so that the Council members are not working long hours all weekend. This will also allow other parents to be a part of the Program.

Fund Development:

Nicky Nickelsen indicated that the Parent Fund sent 2 solicitations to parents by mail last fall and followed-up with calls during the Phonathon. She provided the Council members with a report of gifts made to the Parent Fund and the Cal Poly Fund overall for the months of 07/1 to 12/31. A 5.6% increase was noted. A breakdown of gifts by mail, phone and web were also provided. The Cal Poly Fund's overall goal (including mail/phone/web solicitation to friends and alumni) for the year is 2.1 million. They are 56% of the way to their goal. Nicky Nickelsen thanked the Council for their continued friendraising efforts, which play an important role in generating support for the University from parents.

Adjournment

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 27, 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