
BOARD MEETING
April 21, 2007

Attendees: Joyce Shotick, Debbie Stewart, Keith Kaniut, Ralph Gruss, Mark & Sue Rieger, Dawn Bartlett, and Brad Sewell (Student Senate)

There was a welcome and introductions by Keith Kaniut.

Old business: Talked about the Parents' Association website link to notify parents by email. Reviewed action items from previous meeting. Gold Cards not yet purchased (deferred to "New Business"). Correction to January 6th minutes: Current Provost (Dr. Robert Simpson) hired from U. of M. Dearborn – not Wayne State. No contacts yet with Alumni Association to discuss shared projects. Dawn Bartlett suggested a meeting with Robert Evangelista, Alumni Assoc. President. Keith will take for action.

New business: Dr. Joyce informed us that she has decided to rejoin her family in Peoria, IL at the end of the 2006-07 academic year. A search for her successor as Associate Provost for Student Affairs has begun. She will be truly missed by all of us.

Dr. Shotick talked about enrollment. (Approximately 490 to-date: There are more students interested in A section than B section. This is unusual. In the new Provost search, there are three candidates. Bottom line: By this summer it is likely that we will have both a new Provost and Assoc. Provost. We'll need to work hard to ensure continuity.

Dr. Shotick reported on the reorganization of the Math, Physics and Chemistry departments. Each will now have its own department in order to expand and strengthen their curriculum and provide an improved focus for marketing.

The security issues in the recent Virginia Tech. murders have provoked a thorough review of the university's Lock-down policy and procedures by every department. The Parents Association will follow-up on this report on any changes that were required and made.

One of the problems that universities must deal with is the Federal Health Privacy regulations which prevent universities from notifying parents of any medical problems with their child. The university cannot do anything except refer the student for counseling unless the parent has a signed paper from their student indicating permission for the university to share this information.

If a student is on required medication for any condition (medical or psychiatric) and elects to stop taking their medication, even if someone notices, the university cannot notify the parent without a legal document as described above. They must wait until there is some indication that the student is a danger to themselves or others and then the public safety personnel become involved. Even if the student is referred to a doctor for an evaluation, unless the doctor determines there is an *immediate* danger, they must

release the student. Again, there is no way to force a student to take required medication nor will parents be automatically notified.

Since the 18-24 year old age group is where many mental illnesses first show symptoms, we should all be concerned and try to protect our students from the current laws by obtain the signed permission note mentioned above.

Keith will look into creating a sample permission form that could be downloaded from the web site by parents and provided to the university to ensure their notification under these circumstances.

Of course, staying in touch with your student and talking to their friends is probably the best insurance against problems like these going undetected.

Financial Report: (Debbie Stewart) reported that our current balance as of 4/21/07 is \$5015.35. No significant costs or Gold Card sales since the January meeting.

Gold Cards: A motion was made to buy 1,000 Gold Cards (\$2,000 cost to the association). We lowered the price to \$5 hoping to increase the number sold (We purchased 500 cards last year and sold only 112.) We approved the mock up of the new Gold Card. Our new student representative Brad Sewell (Dayton OH.) suggested some new restaurants. The printer who handles the cards will check whether the additional businesses wish to participate. The cards will be sold by the Parents Association in the Residence Hall and in the Campus Center on Orientation and Family Days. We are looking into recruiting other groups to help sell them; possibly Greek Life or Student Government (Dawn Bartlett to assist.). We are going to check into having an ad placed in the Technician. (Keith for action.)

Elections: At the next two Orientation Days (A Section -7/12/07; B Section -10/4/07), we will talk about upcoming elections for the board. We need a new Vice President with Ralph's departure and will be soliciting volunteers to be A and B Section "At-Large" representatives. These last positions are not elected positions but we hope that those who volunteer for them can commit to 2 years for continuity. Anyone wishing to volunteer can notify the current Board members (Keith or Sue) at Orientation Days, or by email. We will post their bios on the website.

Elections include the board positions for President or Secretary. Both Keith and Sue have agreed to continue in these positions if the rest of the association agrees. These positions must be voted on each year. This is your chance to "kick the bums out" if you're dissatisfied with your current board.

On the Family Days, we'll review the list of candidates and vote. You can also vote by email. The four new "At-Large" volunteer positions for each section are in response to the need to provide equal representation for both sections. These parents will attend the board meetings throughout the year, reporting on any special projects and investigations they've volunteered to assist with.

We will announce the elections in the Parents' Line (newsletter), Parent's Handbook, Directory, Parents survey, and Orientation handout.

Website update: Keith complimented Debbie Stewart on the improved response time for updates to the web page. She indicated that she generally forwards the information the same day and that any delays in the past were due to a combination of timing (the IT department busy with higher priorities) and the switchover of the Main Kettering web site to the new pages.

In the January meeting we discussed the possibility of adding a link on the Association web page that would allow a parent to sign up for or opt-out of receiving email notifications from the Association. No action has been taken to date. At this time, we've decided to continue including a note in the President's Comments section asking people to contact Sue or Keith by email if they wish to be added/subtracted from the list.

Parents Handbook: Needs to be reviewed/updated. Keith committed to updating the section that covers the Parents Association within the next week. Debbie Stewart will ensure that the submitted changes are included in the next printing for July.

Newsletter: Dr. Shotick asked us to decide whether the Parents' Line newsletter should use the older booklet format or the newer tri-fold brochure format. We approved the tri-fold format which saves printing costs. Keith agreed to update the "President's Message" for each issue.

Prep for Success: Dawn Bartlett reported that all six events were very successful. Participation was about 600, compared to last year's 400-450 attendance. Admissions believes that this year's attendees were the "most committed" of any in the recent past, which they expect to produce a higher percentage of students enrolled. She thanked all the parent volunteers for their involvement and said that so far the evaluations have been extremely positive. Keith thanked the rest of the board members for their participation and all of us agreed that the events were a lot of fun and that we'd be helping again next year.

Dates for Orientation and Family Days:

EVENT	A-SECTION	B-SECTION
Orientation	Thurs. July 12, 2007	Thurs. October 4, 2007
Family Day	Sat. August 11, 2007	Sat. November 3, 2007

Note: There will be a Parents Association meeting on each of these days. The time is TBD and will be posted on the web site. Generally it is scheduled for early afternoon.

Student Representative: Brad Sewell from Dayton, OH attended our meeting. Brad gave updated us on the Student Senate. Some of their ideas are: revamp the constitution; solicit outside companies for advertising in The Technician; a mid-term grading system; a

possible refurbishment of the “brick wall”; changing the grading system to a 4-point scale to make it easier for graduates to qualify for jobs and post-graduate education. Most other universities and companies use the 4-point grading scale and when Kettering’s 100-point system is converted, the result often understates the student’s achievements and qualifications.

Ralph Gruss: This was Ralph Gruss’s last meeting (acting Vice President). His son Alexander graduated in March and it’s a long drive from Mannistee, Michigan to Flint. We are going to miss him. Ralph was an active and enthusiastic volunteer for the Parents Association for the duration of Alexander’s time at Kettering. He admitted that the Association activities gave him an excuse to visit his son periodically “on official business” – a definite “plus” above and beyond the fun he had participating in the various annual events. He highly recommended this tactic to all parents.

(Later in the day at the Parents Social event, the remaining board members voted to declare Ralph an “Honorary Lifetime Member” with all the rights and privileges that entails – primarily an open invitation to attend all Association events and meetings and an offer of free lunch if he’s in the area. He will be included in all future email communications from the Association (unless he “opts-out” using our new system!).)

There was no ceremony marking Ralph’s departure. This is perhaps as it should be. The board doesn’t serve for “The Glory”. We do so because we love our kids and have found it rewarding to volunteer our time and thereby share in some small way, their journey at Kettering to become adult professionals.

That said, the Board would like to show our appreciation for Ralph’s service so we’ll investigate getting him a little something.

Dawn Bartlett (Senior Assistant Director of Admissions/Volunteer Coordinator) agreed to get name tags for the board members at the previous meeting but we never forwarded her a list. Keith will send her a note requesting name tags for the current board members so we’ll have them for A-section Orientation Day.

A motion was also made to approve funds to go together with the Alumni Association to purchase a pocket-size contacts list with names, emails and phone numbers. Dawn Barlett said she would approach the Alumni Association with the proposal.

Summary of Key Dates for Orientation, Family Day:

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM so the board members could attend the afternoon Prep-for-Success Parents Forums.

Sue Rieger

Parents Association Secretary