

From the Association president..

This space highlights current issues and meetings as well as upcoming events, decisions, and volunteer “opportunities”.

Keith Kaniut

December 5, 2008:

It's been a little over a month since the B-Section Family Day Association Meeting and as you can tell, I've been a little slow updating the web site.



We had a good turnout on Family Day. Betsy Homsher, the acting Associate Provost for Student Affairs and Dr. Mark Wicks spoke briefly about Dr. Liberty's direction to review the current academic calendar to determine whether there would be any advantage to changing it to be more in alignment with other universities. Dr. Wicks is in charge of the review committee for this project and he's looking at all the pros and cons.

Some students were telling their parents that the calendar was definitely changing away from the current quarters. This is not true. Any changes being considered would not be implemented in time to affect current students. One of the criteria for any recommended changes is that they not negatively impact the co-op program, which is the biggest concern voiced by the parents I've talked to. One possibility being considered is a move towards trimesters with co-op and academics alternating each trimester. This would make the co-op terms occur in different months each year. It might make the freshman year more manageable, increasing our first-to-second year retention.

Our next Board meeting is in January. If you're interested in attending or participating by phone-conference, please contact me. Starting in February 09, we'll be looking for volunteers to participate in the Prep-for-Success events. These are a great opportunity to meet new parents plus there's free food! Drop me or any of the other board members a note if you're interested.

My own Kettering student begins his second-to-last academic term this January. The end is near! Our time here at Kettering passed very quickly. I still believe that in a tough economy, the education our young adults receive at Kettering continues to make them highly desirable hires in the job market. There are still good jobs out there though they may be outside of Michigan for a few years to come.

My thanks to Cindy Partlo for assuming the job of Association Secretary. She was overwhelmingly elected by show-of-hands during the B-section Family Day meeting. She fills the shoes of outgoing Secretary Sue Rieger who's faithful diligence has made my job tremendously easier for the past three years. I am looking for my own replacement since my son will graduate next September. If you are interested in serving, submit your name. We'll introduce you and hold a vote next summer during the Family Day meetings.

Finally, if you think of anything that would have been helpful to a new parent that we could have done, please let me know via the email link below.

Cordially,

Keith M. Kaniut
President, Parents' Association

Contact Info:
Ph - (248) 755-4141; Email - (kkaniut@tir.com)