

From the Association president..

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

Keith Kaniut

April 22, 2009:

Welcome back to the B-section students and their parents. Just a quick note before the latest news: Due to incompetence, I neglected to send in a perfectly good Web Update for February and only discovered my omission when preparing to send this latest update. For this reason I am forced to offer my resignation effective immediately to avoid further scandal.



OK – That was a joke. It’s true that I “officially” resigned at the April board meeting, but it wasn’t due to the missed web update. (I know you’re relieved to hear that.) I’ve made my imminent departure more official in order to make way for your next Board president and any new board members – to help move the process along so that the new board members can be ready to go by July when A-section begins its next semester. I’m leaving because my son graduates next term. It’s time to turn over the awesome power of the Presidency!

During the April 18 Board Meeting Betsy Homsher (Assoc. Provost) offered to help us run the upcoming election for board members through the Blackboard on-line application so that more parents could participate. I’m quite excited about this (as you can tell by my picture) and look forward to trying out the process. This is one of the directions we decided to take the association almost four years ago when I joined the Parents Association board. We wanted to make more information available electronically to encourage greater participation and keep parents better informed about our activities and important events and news. Like many new things it has been an incomplete success but we’ve learned a lot along the way. Today we can review issues through Blackboard and with this next election, we’ll be able to vote for board members without having to be physically present at Kettering. This opens up the participation to non-local parents, something we’ve been hoping to do for some time now.

So if you’ve ever wanted to participate as a volunteer or board member, contact me or one of the other board members. If you wish to stand for one of the board positions send us your name and a short paragraph telling which position you’re interested in and why. We’ll post those on this web site and on the Blackboard Parents Association page.

You’re probably wondering how everyone will be able to logon to Blackboard. We’re going to create a “Guest” logon that will be good for one week, the week we’re voting. We’ll put the logon information here on this page plus send it by email to those who’ve given us their email addresses. During that week (The actual date is TBD but we’re hoping for some time in June.) you’ll be able to log on, review the candidates and vote. After that week, the Guest logon will expire. It will be pretty slick if it works as advertised.

Now for the rest of the news...

Our April board meeting was well-attended by the University, including the Associate Provost (Betsy Homsher), Deb Stewart (our Treasurer and Liaison), and Mr. Jack Stock from the University Advancement Department (money raising and promotion of the university). Mr. Stock gave a half-hour presentation based on one that Dr. Liberty uses during his travels around the country. Read the meeting minutes for more details but a couple interesting things he reported were that undergraduate admissions are up 20%, graduate admissions is up almost 9%. Also, financial aid for new students (especially scholarships) has also increased. New students may receive almost twice the money per term as students who started four years ago. That's good news for underclassmen.

Mr. Stock also talked about various initiatives they are pursuing with the city of Flint to help the city transition from being primarily a Manufacturing town, towards more of a college town. We also talked about Kettering's location as an "urban university", and the opportunities and concerns this presents.

He also talked about new infrastructure and buildings – a new Science and Technology Center; a new freeway exit off I-69 from Hammerberg road that will provide direct access to the university with new road that will cross directly over the river to the campus from the light at the corner of Corunna, Court and Pershing Roads.

A topic that did not come up was the question of whether the university had been discussing options for students who'd lost their co-op jobs and who were worried about getting enough co-op terms to graduate. I forwarded that question to Associate Provost Homsher and will publish her reply as soon as I receive it.

Regarding Association funding: Julie Blalock found a new lower-cost source for the Gold Cards. We've ordered 500 of these cards for next year.

My own job may take me out of state in the near future making it more difficult to participate. I guess I'll find out how well the "electronic" participation works. We can work these bugs out together.

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,

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President, Parents' Association

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