

Parents' Association Meeting

Saturday, August 5, 2006

Attendees:

Keith Kaniut, Ralph Gruss, Mark and Sue Rieger, Joyce Shotick, Beverley Tsukayama, Cheryl Pixley, ...

Previous meeting's minutes were reviewed by K. Kaniut, including introduction of the new association officers who were elected in the April meeting:

President: Keith Kaniut

Vice President: Ralph Gruss

Secretary: Sue Rieger

Treasurer: Dr. Joyce Shotick, Associate Provost for Student Affairs (also the "University Liaison")

Student Liaison: Andreos Kaplanov (currently studying abroad)

After quick around-the-room introductions Keith asked Dr. Shotick to introduce herself. She did so, plus discussed some new programs being implemented: LITE, AIM, Discover U and Project Lead the Way that all introduce middle school and high school students to math, science, engineering and technology. She welcomed all the parents and thanked everyone for coming.

Treasurers Report (Calendar Year 200?)

(The Treasurers report was not presented due to the recent personnel changes within the Kettering Student Affairs department. Dr. Shotick provided this report after the September meeting.)

Beginning balance:	\$3612.88
Income	
Gold Card sales & Family Day registrations	\$1010.00
Expenses	
Family Day giveaways, supplies, coffee, donuts & lunch	\$812.40
Current Balance	\$3810.48

Old Business:

- Keith talked about some of the issues raised at previous meetings such as "crime at Kettering". **There have been no new incidents. The addition of two security guards to patrol the parking lots and two off-duty Flint policemen seems to be reducing the incidence of car break-ins. Students are encouraged to follow the buddy system if they must make trips off-campus or across the campus at night. They are also encouraged to call for an escort by security personnel late at night.**
- A 52" TV was paid for by the Parents Association and installed in the Student Lounge to provide a better location for students to socialize during major sporting events (i.e.; Super Bowl) and for use with multi-media games and for presentations. It replaces one damaged in one of the upper dormitory lounges.
- Keith also talked about how "academic warning" works at Kettering. At a previous meeting one of the parents had expressed concern that the number of students on academic probation or warning seemed too high. An investigation revealed that the numbers were in fact quite small: Less than 13 in a class of 170 freshman and only a few more in the B-section freshman (304 students starting).

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New Business

Keith mentioned the Parents Association web page, admitting with some embarrassment that he had not been able to find or access it when he'd searched for it a few days earlier. (**He has since found it!**) He led a discussion of how this web site might be used to better communicate with the parents. Some of the suggestions were:

- Use it to provide an input forum for parents to express their concerns about problems they or their children have encountered.
- Use it to present "New Business" items for voting, with automated voting forms. (Dr. Shotick will investigate the use of logins and voting forms with the IT department.)
- List events still needing volunteers and provide a means to sign-up for these events.
- Provide a login-only access list of parents who are willing to be an "emergency contact" for a student traveling through their area. The list could also include a checkbox indicating whether the parent is willing to provide a night's temporary lodging to a transiting student (enroute to a co-op job for example). One suggestion was to call the list "Helping Hands". Other suggestions are welcome. ("Travel Hosts?")
- Another parent suggested a blog-like section for parents to discuss new proposals, events, etc. It would need to have login-only access and have someone who monitors it and reviews each comment before posting it to the site. Keith volunteered to perform this function if we can figure out the technology.
- Another parent suggested creating a "housing page" linked to the Associations home page. This could be part of the "Helping Hands" type listing or a separate one listing parents willing to provide temporary and emergency housing for students. Parents would list their location, phone#, email, and the type of housing they are willing to provide (This still needs to be fleshed out a bit...) The inspiration behind it is that with their students at school, many parents have a spare bed or bedroom available. Perhaps this page might be titled "Host Families" implying something longer term than the other "Travel Hosts" list?
- Someone wondered whether a bridge line could be used to allow non-local parents to participate via phone-conference at future Parents Association meetings. Dr. Shotick said she would investigate.
- Dr. Shotick suggested forming committees of parents with specialties like Housing, web page, co-op, projects, fundraising, enrollment, etc. with meeting frequency as required (3 times a year?)

Accessing the Parents Association Web page

There are a couple easy ways to find this page. The easiest is to simply enter www.kettering.edu/parents/ in your browser address line. If you are on the Kettering home page (www.kettering.edu), you can also select "Quick Links" at the bottom (left pull-down) and select "Parents Association".

See the addendum to these notes for a description of the contents of the current Parents Association web pages.

Please explore these pages and send Keith (kkaniut@tir.com) your feedback on what's missing, what's hard to find, what you would like to see added, etc.

"Volunteers Needed"

Please contact Keith if you have the expertise and are interested in helping out on the following new committees. This is a chance to get in on the ground floor and influence the direction of

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these new resources for us and our children. We anticipate these committees initially meeting together 3 or 4 times a year, although depending on how dynamic we make the information, we may need to meet more often initially.

- Web site update Committee
- Housing committee

Upcoming Events (Volunteers)

- September 28: B-Section Orientation (**Beverley T. and Sue R.**)
- November 11: B-Section Family Day (**Cheryl Pixley, Beverly T. and Mark Rieger.**)

Final Notes

Our thanks to all the parent and student volunteers who helped today: Ralph Gruss, Mark & Sue Rieger, Beverley Tsukayama, Mike Kaniut.

Thanks also to Dr. Shotick and her staff (Eva White, Deb) for their help in organizing today's event and helping make it a success. (The coffee and donuts were a hit! The standard has been set...)

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at **1:00 PM** the afternoon of **B-Section Family Day (11/11)**. The meeting location will be posted on the web site and at the "Welcome" tables that day.

Recorded by:

Sue Rieger (Association Secretary)

Reviewed by:

Keith Kaniut (Association President)

Ralph Gruss (Association Vice President, former President, soon-to-be parent of Kettering graduate!)