

**UNL Parents Association**  
**April 19, 2008**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Deb Albright, Joy Citta, Rosemary Eastwood, Christine Essay, Carl Kurtz, Holly Jo Kurtz, Dick Luedtke, Kaylene Luedtke, Elizabeth Pokorny, Darwin McGhee, Kathy McGhee

**UNL Staff Present:** Juan N. Franco (Student Affairs), Tonda Humphress (Student Affairs)

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Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Introductions were made of those attending.

**UNL Update by Juan N. Franco, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs**

- \*We have 400 more freshmen this year than we did last year (and last year we had 300 more than the previous year. We need to build more housing which will be on 17<sup>th</sup> and R (this new housing will give us 500 more beds). The construction was approved by the Board of Regents yesterday. The University plans to break ground for this new construction this summer. The cost is projected to be \$40 million. We are also renovating Abel/Sandoz (1200 beds) at a projected cost of \$40 million.
- The University will expand the Nebraska Union for an additional 30,000 sq. feet at a cost of \$8.7 million. Students reported that they wanted the expansion and would be willing to pay ½ the cost if the Administration would pay the other ½ -- Harvey Perlman has raised Administration's half.
- We will have artificial turf on Mabel Lee Field. The current grass fields are hard to play on the first time it rains or snows. The artificial turf will allow our students to make use of the fields more often.
- State Fair Park has received a lot of publicity. Part of it will become tennis courts and other recreational space for our students. It will also connect the City and East Campuses.
- We are in the process of getting a new student information system. The whole system will probably cost about \$40 million. Hardware will be part of the cost, but the main cost will be the implementation phase when a lot of consultants will need to be hired.
- The University is planning to outsource the student email system which will provide better service for students than the current system can offer.
- We continue to climb up on the US News & World Report Rankings. Nebraska was first in popularity (not as a party school) for public schools (based on the number of schools applied to, Nebraska had the highest number of students choosing to actually attend).
- Safety continues to be a priority. Cameras are all around campus. We are implementing "Campus Alert" and ask that parents encourage their students to sign up for this program. Police Officers continue to patrol the campus. Also, parents can continue to encourage their students to use common sense (i.e. don't walk alone at night; Lincoln is safe, but it is always best to be safe).

**Minutes**

Minutes from the January 25, 2008 Meeting were distributed. Elizabeth Pokorny made a motion to approve the minutes; Chris Essay seconded. Minutes were approved.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Total Assets:	\$8,016.87
<u>Total Liabilities:</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Net Worth:	\$7,766.87

The expenses and income were discussed. Carl Kurtz made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Darwin McGhee seconded. The Treasurer's report was approved.

## **Parents Association Grant Funding Requests**

The UNL Parents Association will consider University Funding Requests again this year. These grants are provided to improve University resources or services to the majority of the student population. Grants that are awarded will be announced later this summer.

## **Big 12 Parents Office Conference at Texas Tech**

Tonda reported that Texas Tech has begun a Big 12 Conference for Offices/staff who work with parent groups on their campuses. She attended the first annual conference in February. Many of the other schools have more funding as a result of dues assessed for members and large donations. However many of the other schools do not have many parents participate in the parent activities unlike UNL's Parents Association who has members who actively support such events as Parents Weekend and the Parents Recognition Program. This group is considering developing a standards program for University Parents Associations so that the organizations will have some guidelines to use (i.e. must meet at least four times a year, etc.) Some of the schools were just creating a Parent Office on their Campus. At UNL, the Student Affairs Office serves as the Parent Office.

## **Big Red Road Show**

The Big Red Road Show was held at the Omaha Qwest Center on February 24<sup>th</sup>. It was the largest attended Road Show yet and the Parents Association Booth was very busy. Our parent volunteers did an excellent job. A common comment was that parents did not realize that UNL had a parents association, so participation in this event is an excellent way to promote the organization with current and incoming parents of UNL students. The give-away items were very popular, particularly the money bag stress balls and the heart magnets. Thank you to the parent volunteers!

## **Outstanding Student Leadership Award Dinner**

The UNL Outstanding Student Leadership Award Dinner was held April 4<sup>th</sup>. Rosemary Eastwood was able to participate in the selection process and attended the dinner. It is an excellent program and the students who were nominated were amazing. Just as the UNL Parents Association recognizes outstanding faculty and staff at the Recognition for Contributions to Students Ceremony, they also support this event which recognizes outstanding student leaders. The UNL Parents Association contributes \$4,000 toward this event. The recipients of the award were Stefanie Graff (Omaha, NE) and Eric Thorson (Eagan, MN). The Finalists for this award were: Megan Black (Kearney, NE), Carlos Lopez, III (Lincoln, NE), Adam Morfeld (Canton, SD), and Emily Zimmer (Lincoln, NE).

## **Parents Weekend 2008**

Parents Weekend this year will be October 10-12; parent volunteers will be needed. Please contact Tonda Humphress (402-472-3756 or [thumphress1@unl.edu](mailto:thumphress1@unl.edu)) to sign up. Dates are listed on the Parents Association web site (brochures are not yet available). Discussion was held on possible changes to Parents Weekend. Some ideas included: Having a midnight pancake or BBQ feed (pancakes or hot dogs/chicken/hamburgers); Contacting the Visitors Bureau to get coupons for local restaurants for dinner on Saturday night (it will be "on-your-own"); Having booths in the Nebraska Union like they do at the Big Red Road Show so that people can pick what they want to see or visit; Having a booth in the Nebraska Union for the UNL Parents Association where pictures can be taken, the organization can be promoted and

the Silent Auction Items can be seen; Having an interactive security booth in the Nebraska Union so parents and students can see what security measures are being used. Additional ideas were discussed.

### **Additional Upcoming Events**

- NSE will begin June 5. The UNL Parents Association has a booth at NSE, and it makes more of an impact if we have parents there. Anyone who would like to volunteer to be at the booth (7:15-8:00 am on the following dates), should contact Tonda (402-472-3756; [thumphress1@unl.edu](mailto:thumphress1@unl.edu)) as soon as possible.

NSE Dates:

June: 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30

July: 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

- Residence Hall Welcome will be August 21 (Thursday) and August 22 (Friday) – usually from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. More parent volunteers will be needed this year as we will be helping with Cather, Pound and Neihardt Residence Hall and adding Selleck Residence Hall. You will need to sign up in advance in order to receive parking materials; Housing will provide lunch for the volunteers. Please contact Tonda to sign up.
- Big Red Welcome will be August 24 (Classes begin August 25). It is a fun event and is usually scheduled from approximately 4:45 p.m. for setup with students arriving at 6:00-8:00 p.m. Parents wishing to volunteer should contact Tonda.
- After some discussion, the Parents Association members attending would like to have the next meeting on July 19 (Saturday) at the East Campus Dairy Store. More information will be sent out once arrangements have been made.

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Tonda Humphress*