

Minutes from meeting of UNL Parents Association
July 8, 2006

Members present: Steve Ferris, Barb Ferris, Barb Bures, Kaylene Luedtke, Dick Luedtke, Connie Olson, Juan N. Franco, and Tonda Humphress.

President Steve Ferris called the meeting to order at 9:37 am. The meeting began with all attendees introducing themselves.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 25, 2006 meeting were read and approved, with one correction: The previous Big Red Road Show was held at the Quest Center rather than the Marina Inn Exhibit Hall.

Treasurer's report:

Total Assets:	\$ 6,665.09
Total Liabilities:	<u>0.00</u>
Net Worth	\$ 6,665.09

The treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business: None

Big Red Welcome: This year, Big Red Welcome will be Sunday, August 20th. Barb Bures and Kaylene and Dick Luedtke volunteered to help with this event; Barb and Steve Ferris will help get the materials to the booth. The location will be in the Horeshoe between Campus Recreation and the Stadium. Barb and Steve commented that this is a fun event with a lot of students rushing through to see the giveaways. Setup would be at approximately 5:00 pm (students are expected to arrive at between approximately 6:00-8:00 pm). Steve will look into getting a cover to shield the Parents Association booth from the sun.

Parents Weekend: Parents Weekend will be September 15th-17th. Brochures with the events list were distributed. The brochure is available on-line on the Parents Association web site (<http://parentsassoc.unl.edu>) or by calling the Student Affairs Office at 402-472-3755 (or by emailing Tonda at thumphress1@unl.edu). We need volunteers to help with this event – which is a lot of fun and very helpful to parents of new UNL students, especially those from out-of-state. There is no cost for volunteering, you will just need to attend the event for which you are scheduled.

Big Red Road Show: Next year Admissions plans to host two Big Red Road Shows: one in Omaha and one at the Marina Inn Conference Center in South Sioux City.

Discussion was held about how we could increase our enrollment in the association. The University will try to contact parents of UNL students to share additional information about the UNL Parents Association and to encourage increased involvement. Dr. Franco will discuss options with Dean Alan Cerveny, Admissions about the possibility of reaching out to different areas – similar to the Alumni Office Nebraska Booster Clubs.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of recreating a Midwest Parents Consortium to share ideas for Parents Association activities. A decision was made to begin by contacting Parents Associations at UNL's Peer Institutions. Tonda will get the list of Peer Institutions to Barb Bures who will then contact those groups.

Tuition Raffle: Discussion was held regarding the need to have good income from the tuition raffle because it is the only source of income for the Parents Association. We must do the mailing after census date (August 28th this year) in order to have the correct addresses. Mailing goes via bulk mail as first-class mail would be cost prohibitive at that quantity. Someone suggested we try putting a "mail by" date on the mailing to see if that would help – similar to the mail circulars everyone gets at home.

Barb Bures mentioned that we might also be able to raise funds by raffling off Bowl Game tickets during years that UNL is in a Bowl Game. Dr. Franco volunteered to check into this possibility.

Residence Hall Welcome: The UNL Parents Association will not participate in the Residence Hall Welcome this year. However, Barb Bures and others had ideas on ways the UNL Parents Association members may be able to improve move-in for students and their families and help Housing at the same time. For instance, Barb Bures knew of other schools where they had large bins to put personal belongings into as parents drove up. Parents Association members could be alongside the traffic giving directions and loading carts. By the time the parents of the students who were moving in had parked their cars and returned to the residence hall, the Parents Association members would have already taken the students' belongings up to their room and unloaded them. Parents Association members could also provide bottles of water and other information. Dr. Franco was very supportive of this idea and also mentioned that he would like Administrators to help with move-in as well. A meeting will be scheduled with Barb Bures, Barb and/or Steve Ferris if available, Dr. Franco and a Housing representative to discuss these possibilities for future Residence Hall Welcome activities.

New Business:

Honorary Memberships: Barb and Steve Ferris presented Dr. Juan N. Franco and Connie Olson with honorary membership certificates. Dr. Franco was welcomed to the UNL Parents Association. The UNL Parents Association was pleased that Dr. Franco was able to join them and looks forward to working with him in the years to come. Connie was thanked for all of her assistance while her daughter was at UNL. Connie's daughter graduated in May, but with the honorary membership, Connie will always be welcome to attend and participate in Parents Association events and meetings.

Slate of New Officers: We will need to have a slate of new officers for the November meeting. If you know of anyone you would like to encourage to run for an office, please contact them or let Barb or Steve Ferris know so they can contact them. We will need a new "President Elect" and at least two Members-at-large (possibly three).

Fall Meeting: The fall meeting will be November 4th. This is when we will elect new officers (who will assume their positions in January). We will also have the raffle drawing at this meeting. The Parents Association has requested 20 football tickets – so if you would like to be entered in a drawing for an opportunity to purchase tickets, please let Tonda know.

University Update:

Dr. Juan Franco introduced himself to the Board and expressed his appreciation for their efforts. He believes that parents are valuable assets in making the University a helpful and welcoming place for their students. He updated them regarding staffing changes in the Student Affairs Office with Barb Wright-Chollet's and Dr. Griesen's retirements and Chuck van Rossum's leave of absence due to medical concerns and Tonda's pending maternity leave. While these changes will provide some challenges for his office, he is confident that everything will be done and he looks forward to working with the UNL Parents Association. He encouraged any parents or students to contact him should they have a need to do so. He has an open door policy and checks his email regularly.

Dr. Franco shared that he has been learning about the University and just finished the last New Student Program. He is looking forward to the students returning to campus this fall. He is passionate about working with students. He loves to work at land grant schools because they are so full of life, particularly since students live on or near campus and there are student activities all the time.

Regarding University news, Dr. Franco stated that enrollment is looking good – we have an increase of about 300 so far. Housing is already full. They know they have about 20-30 students from Lincoln and will contact those students to see if they would be willing to live at home for a couple of weeks while the room assignments settle down. Those students will certainly have the right to say they would prefer to move on campus immediately. Once the assignments have settled down, we will then bring them on to campus.

Also, recently, students voted to expand the Student Union. This will add a lot to the campus.

The University is also moving to eliminate the use of Social Security Numbers where possible. We are still required to use the Social Security Number for Federal Financial Aid forms, but as much as possible, we plan to go to an assigned student identification number instead. This will help minimize identity theft.

Dr. Franco shared a goal of his to encourage all students to be more civic minded and involved. He is proposing a Service Learning Certificate which will show up on the student's transcript. The certificate would require the student to complete certain requirements. He plans to work with Academic Affairs to get this passed because it will involve both coursework and volunteer activities for which the student will receive credit and because the certificate would be noted on the academic transcript. Employers and graduate schools will see this notation on the transcript. We will need to get the courses coded as Service Learning and they will need to incorporate volunteer activities. Students will need to complete all requirements in order to receive the certificate.

Finally, Dr. Franco updated the Parents Association on a proposed Student Tailgating Event. The University would like to get students to tailgate together in one area and then walk over together to the game. (Perhaps this will be an activity with which Parents Association Members could help.)

Next General Meeting: November 4, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am

Respectfully submitted,

Tonda Humphress