

UNL Parents Association
January 25, 2008
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Joy Citta, Peggy Confer, Robin Keralis, Dick Luedtke, Kaylene Luedtke, Connie Olson, Elizabeth Pokorny, Juan N. Franco (UNL), Timothy A. Alvarez (UNL) and Tonda Humphress (UNL)

Meeting was called to order at 4:20 pm by Joy Citta, Co-President.

Introductions were made of those attending.

Minutes:

Elizabeth Pokorny made a motion to approve the Minutes for the November 10, 2007 meeting; Kaylene Luedtke seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report:

Total Asset:	\$13,622.88
Total Liabilities:	<u>\$5,750.00</u>
Net Worth:	\$ 7,872.88

The expenses and income were discussed. Robin Keralis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Elizabeth Pokorny seconded. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Old Business:

Faculty Recognition Award Ceremony went very well. We had a good turnout of faculty and staff and parent volunteers. Recipients clearly appreciate receiving this recognition from the parents; it means a lot to them. Parent volunteers who attended felt it was worthwhile to attend this event.

The most current newsletter, *Campus Report*, is available on the UNL Parents Association web site (printed copies were available for parents to review) and parents were encouraged to look at them.

Recruitment was discussed. UNL Parents Association Brochures and Contact Information Cards are available for UNL Parents Association members if they would like to share them with others. Parents may also contact Tonda (402-472-3756 or thumphress1@unl.edu) to be added to the UNL Contact list or to receive information on the UNL Parents Association.

New Business:

University Update from Dr. Franco:

- Dr. Franco expressed his appreciation for the UNL Parents Association and the benefits the University receives from the Association.
- Enrollment is going well. We have the "good problem" now of how to accommodate these students. We plan to build a new residence hall which will add about 500 rooms. We are also planning on remodeling Abel and Sandoz to improve those facilities. The remodeling will cost about \$40 million, but students need and deserve a good place to live.
- Students want to expand the Campus Recreation Center and Student Health Services. The University does not receive money from the state for Auxiliary Services. We won't expand these services this year, but will in the future. Students wonder if we can combine both into one building – which would require a big building.

- We need to continue to build on our good academic programs. We need good academic programs, but we need more because other schools have good programs too.
- We do offer other services to students as well, such as offering safe, non-alcohol events for them. The University continues to work with the students to see what they want (i.e. longer Nebraska Union hours, etc.).
- The University needs help from Parents regarding the new UNL Alert system. UNL Alert will notify whoever registers for it, but we haven't had a lot of students sign up (approx. 4,000 of the 22,000 students). *Please* ask your student if he/she has signed up for UNL Alert; if not, please encourage them to sign up.
- We are trying to get students to report potentially threatening/suspicious behavior. For instance, if you see someone with a gun on campus, report it.
- The new UNL Police number is 472-2222; hopefully it will be easier for people to think of in an emergency.
- Illegally downloading and sharing music continues to be a concern. Dr. Franco requested that Parents help get the word out to the students that they should not do this. We do not want our students getting sued – it is better for them to pay 99¢ for a song they really want.
- The State Fair issue was discussed. Currently the University is landlocked. Right now our maximum capacity is about 24,000 – which we could reach next year – and we need to be able to expand. A facility on the State Fair Grounds would provide a research facility but will also be an academic facility.
- It will take a while to implement, but we need to purchase a new student information system – which will be very expensive (\$22 million expected for just the first year). However, the developers of our current system have notified us that they will no longer support the software we are currently using after about two years.

New Staff Introduction

Dr. Tim Alvarez was introduced. Tim will be help with many projects and will also specifically help with Ombudsperson issues. If a student needs assistance, Tim is a good third party person for the student to see.

Parents Weekend

- Parents Weekend 2008 will be October 10-12.
- Dr. Alvarez shared that we had received about 30 completed evaluations from Parents Weekend 2007, and we would like to utilize the Parents' interest and involvement in their students' lives. One of the suggestions was to shorten the Scarlet & Cream Singers time and possibly offer parents a chance to attend a game. We are considering having two acts perform instead of only the Scarlet and Cream Singers (they do a good job, but parents and students felt it went a little long). He will also visit with the Athletic Department to see if we could get tickets for a game. We are also considering:
 - Including local attractions that are unique to Lincoln such as the Sheldon Art Gallery.
 - Keeping the Stadium Tour but we need to get more creative with it.
 - Involving faculty, but make it an informal interaction opportunity.
 - Making the Saturday night dinner be “on-your-own.”
 - Working with local (downtown) restaurants for dinner.
 - Adding Study Abroad Sessions.
 - Reviewing the cost of attendance.
 - Adding someone from Athletics such as Tom Osborne or one of the other coaches to give a presentation.
 - Collaborating more with hotels and restaurants to offer better deals.
 - Allowing participants to register on-line and pay on-line.

- Offering a Parents Association Session where parents can learn more about the UNL Parents Association and ask questions. Joy suggested that perhaps the UNL Parents Association could create a Facebook organization.
- Parents can be excellent ambassadors for the University if they understand what we do and what we offer.

Big Red Road Show

Joy announced that the Big Red Road Show would be on February 24, 2008, 11:30 am – 4:00 pm at the Omaha Qwest Center. She shared a few notes about the Road Show and encouraged members to volunteer to help with the UNL Parents Association booth.

UNL Parents Association Officers

Positions that have been filled:	Co-Presidents –	Joy Citta, Lincoln NE Rosemary Eastwood, Lincoln NE
	Treasurer –	Kaylene Luedtke, Columbus NE
	Members-at-Large –	Dick Luedtke, Columbus NE Susan Rutledge, Lincoln NE

Positions that needed to filled:	President-Elect Secretary Member-at-Large (1 position)
----------------------------------	--

Elizabeth Pokorny offered to serve as a member-at-large and the membership approved the appointment. The members will continue to seek a President-Elect and a Secretary.

Upcoming Events

Joy Citta shared information on the following upcoming events:

- Outstanding Student Leadership Award Dinner
- New Student Enrollment
- Big Red Welcome
- Residence Hall Welcome
- Raffle Fundraiser Mailing
- UNL Parents Association meetings

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonda Humphress.