

UNL Parent's Association Spring Meeting
UNL Downtown Campus, Selleck Dining Hall
April 16, 2005

Executive Committee Present: Dr. James Griesen (Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs), Barb Wright-Chollet (Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs), Tonda Humphress (Projects Coordinator, Student Affairs), Tim Draftz (Representative to the RWJ Foundation), Barb and Steve Ferris (Co-Presidents Elect), Lana Peterson-Pressler (Secretary), Kari Tyree (President), Charlene Venenga (Treasurer),

Members Present: Ginni Knutson, Connie Olson, Susan Rutledge, Byron Tyree

Meeting **called to order** at 10:45 by President Kari Tyree.

Minutes were approved as presented Steve Ferris/Tim Draftz)

Financial report: Printed report provided. Balance in raffle account is \$3403.02 and in the general account \$12,348.94, total assets are \$18,296.96. While there were few transactions this quarter there will be many expenditures coming up! Deposit charges reversed, Dr. Griesen will talk with the bank about not charging us this.

Big Red Road Show: Disappointing numbers in Omaha but overall numbers were down for the Omaha event. It was encouraging to see more families with older children in attendance. Parking fee was an issue at the Quest Center and the show may be moved back to Civic Auditorium. An idea is to contact the Parent's Associations in high schools in the areas. Parents volunteered for the Mitchell, NE Road Show but unfortunately the handouts and information did not arrive so our exposure was limited.

Residence Hall Welcome: This event did not happen last year due to lack of volunteers. We provide general assistance for families moving students into the residence halls. Barb Ferris and Byron Tyree will seek volunteers to again provide this service on approximately August 19-23. PA will provide one night of hotel for the volunteers from out of town.

Parents Weekend will be held September 23-25, 2005: Volunteers will be needed for this as well. Tonda has a great deal of the planning complete. Tentative plans include welcome dinner, followed by a performance at the Sheldon with Jack Olivia, Saturday dinner as well with Scarlett and Cream performing. These events will be advertised during residence hall move-in weekend as well.

New Business: Kari has suggested we should add a special events chairperson to our executive committee. Currently the President is responsible for many of these events. Motion: The Parents Association will add a Special Events Chair to the Executive Committee and nominate Kari Tyree for the position for 2005-2006. (Lana/Ginni) Motion passed.

Congratulations to Andrew Knutson and Chantal Affu for being named outstanding student leaders. The celebration dinner included excellent food and wonderful speeches from student candidates which made this event very special. All are encouraged to attend. We will sponsor this event every year from raffle income.

A suggested change in the bylaws of the Parent's Association was introduced and approved following discussion, as follows: (*strike through text will be removed and underlined text will be added*):

“Articles VI. Officers

Section 2. Election. The officers of the Association shall be elected annually by the members at the annual meeting of the members, ~~or as soon thereafter as convenient,~~ and shall take

~~office the following January 1. The President-elect will automatically advance to the position of President, at the next annual meeting. All other officers shall be elected at the annual meeting but no officer except the treasurer shall be elected to the same office for more than two successive annual terms.~~

The annual meeting is typically UNL homecoming weekend in October. In addition, we recommend that the President-elect attend the annual national conference of parent associations. If the President-elect cannot attend, they will designate another officer to attend in their place. Bylaw revision was approved effective immediately, making the terms of all officers January to January. (Tim Draftz/Steve Ferris)

Report from the National Convention (Boston): Report given by Presidents-elect Barb and Steve Ferris. There were 20-30 schools in attendance, mostly schools from the East coast. Attendance inspires questions about how a Parents' Association works. UNL PA compares very favorably with other schools in special events provided for parents, faculty and students. A discussion on a list serve for members helped us brainstorm ideas of how to get names of parents who may want to be involved. Perhaps a small card to be completed by parents at Parents' Weekend and at NSE (New Student Enrollment) with volunteer opportunities to then be used to build a database. A graduate assistant attends NSE days on behalf of the PA. Suggestions Barb and Steve saw for give-a-ways included bumper stickers, magnets with schedules and calendars, etc. Barb will check into putting our "who to call" card on a magnet. These are included in the raffle mailing as well as in the new student packet. Tonda will draft a new phone list with just those most pertinent numbers included and Barb will look into making this a magnet, perhaps two-sided.

Another suggestion is to include the Parents' Association as a link on the main UNL website rather than going through Student Affairs. Other ideas from the conference include not forgetting our transfer students' parents in our mailings and gift packets for students (being wary of from whom you order these as there are a variety of companies offering these who may or may not be legitimate).

UNL update from Dr. Griesen: Tuition planning models currently assume 5% increase. If the capitol improvement bill passes in the legislature we will need to come up with matching funds so it may increase to 5.5%. Facilities use fees increase will then amount to a 5.5% increase. Salary increases have been very minimal but this year the plan is for 3% the first year and 3.5% increase in the second year. We try to stay around the mean of our peer group in faculty salary and it will take 4% plus increase to make up for last year. Rates were frozen in the residence halls. Considering a prescription plan and a dental plan but his would include a substantial increase in the cost of the program for all. There was some discussion for feedback for Dr. Griesen on this topic. The distinguished professors' bill will probably pass in the legislature. Thank you to the PA for their support.

No report from the RWJ Foundation meetings as Tim missed the last two meetings, one for personal reasons and then miscommunication for the second. He will be at the next meeting. Dr. Griesen will be sure there is a phone call reminder for these meetings, especially if there is a change in the scheduled time.

Summer meeting date was discussed as we have a busy meeting for fall activities planning. July 9th 10:00, was agreed upon by those present with the location to be determined. Barb will get football tickets for annual meeting OCTOBER 8TH.

Meeting adjourned at 12:12.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Lana Peterson-Pressler