

THE COLLEGE OF ST. SCHOLASTICA
Parents Advisory Council

Spring Meeting
Saturday, March 14, 2009; 9:00 a.m.
Hinckley, MN

Minutes

PRESENT: Laura Clements, Darrell Gorham, Jennifer Gorham, Becky Johnson and Jeanne Thompson.

ABSENT: Kay Dahlka, Kathy Kostohryz, Rick Kostohryz, and Chet Taylor.

College Update

Jeanne presented a brief College update:

- Fall 2009 enrollment is on track and looking strong – even in this difficult economic time. Applications are down slightly – but housing deposits and matriculation fees are up from this time last year.
- Our sports programs have had a very good year. Our Men’s Hockey team is playing in the quarterfinals of the National Tournament this evening in Menomonee, WI, against UW-Stout. If they win, they will be heading to Lake Placid for the semi-final game.
- The College is mourning the loss of Baseball Coach John Baggs. Coach Baggs passed away on Tuesday, February 24. The baseball team is currently in Florida and moving forward with their season after such a substantial loss.
- Finances are good at the College. President Goodwin touched briefly on the state of the College’s finances in a tuition/room board increase letter that was sent to all current parents recently. Tuition is increasing 3 percent next year.
- The College launched its new Web site on March 11. Other than a few photos that need to be inserted and some links that need to be repaired, the rollout went very smoothly.

New Parent Welcome Packets

At our last meeting we discussed sending all new freshman parents a welcome packet from our Council. The letter was reviewed and the attachments were discussed. In addition to the welcome letter, the following attachments will be included:

1. 2009-10 academic calendar.
2. *What to Bring to College* list.
3. Checklist of important things to talk to your child about before they move to campus.
4. Parents Advisory Council membership listing.
5. “*Jump on Board*” document and biography form for parents to complete if they are interested in joining our Council.

We worked together very thoughtfully and diligently on numbers 2 and 3 above. There was great discussion and input.

E-Newsletter and E-mail Collection Update

Our campaign to collect parent e-mail addresses has been working great. All parents were sent an e-mail request form in their spring appeal packets. We also have a WANTED: E-MAIL ADDRESSES promotion in the Parent Newsletter scheduled to be mailed in early April. We will also have an alumni/parent e-mail request promotion in the spring *Times* magazine due out in early May.

Next fall we will launch our first Parents Advisory Council E-Communication, **from parents to parents.**

Web Projects Update

No progress was made since our last meeting on our parents forum idea because of the new Web site project. IT is prepared to work with us on this project after the school year ends. Our “ask Lena” idea was also pushed back for the same reason.

Our Parent FAQ gained momentum. Laura Clements researched other Parent FAQ sites, compiled them and brought them (and many of her own) to our meeting. We reviewed the questions and will be working again on this document at our next meeting.

Parents Fund Update

Given the state of our economy – our parent fundraising efforts are going fine. The College has received about \$66,000 in pledges and commitments to date, which is the same level we were at last year. To date we have 584 parent donors.

Thanks to Jennifer and Darrell, who co-wrote and signed the spring appeal letters, the letter and ask have been very well received. Student callers will begin their calls to parents in the next week.

Summer Meeting Schedule

We discussed meeting again in the summer, potentially around a date close to an Orientation session where we can possibly provide a parent-to-parent forum. Jeanne will review the Orientation calendar and get dates to everyone. We will most likely try to meet twice this summer – for a full day each meeting.

Open Discussion

Jeanne brought up the idea of having a parent-to-parent forum during Homecoming/Family Weekend on Saturday morning, September 26, 2009. This timing would work great as many new parents will have had their son/daughter on campus for several weeks and may have many questions at that point.

In reviewing our weekend activities – Saturday morning from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. would work great. This is after the *Dignitas* continental breakfast and before the parade. Homecoming/Family Weekend is scheduled for September 25 – 27. **Be sure to mark your calendars now ☺**

Other “open discussion” topics discussed:

- How can the College or our Council promote the idea of working closely with academic advisors?
- Is there currently a social group for non-drinking students on campus?
- How are RA’s (Resident Advisors) selected?
- Saints’ Alert messages and notifications, can parents sign up?
- Should our Council be present at new student Orientations?

The meeting/lunch was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Thompson