

THE COLLEGE OF ST. SCHOLASTICA
Parents Advisory Group

Fall Meeting
Saturday, October 4, 2008; 7:45 a.m.

Minutes

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

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

College Update

- Enrollment is over goal in all student categories (traditional, ADEP, graduate) with the exception of transfer students which is under goal slightly. Enrollment after the College's 10-day count is:
 - Main campus traditional undergraduate 2,168
 - ADEP and Extended Studies undergraduate 601
 - Graduate 824
 - Total Enrollment 3,593
- The College has received lots of positive press announcing its inaugural football team/program, Family/Homecoming Weekend, Community Day, and much more. To view Duluth News Tribune and Star Tribune related articles, visit the College's web site at [http://www.css.edu/About St Scholastica/News/Print_Stories.html](http://www.css.edu/About_St_Scholastica/News/Print_Stories.html)

Committee Name

Discussion was held regarding the name of our Parents Group. Jeanne provided research on the 17 MN private college's – which included only four committee names. St. Scholastica is 1 of 5 MN private college's with a similar group. Other parent members brought similar research results. We agreed to keep Parent's Advisory – but should we change Group to Committee or Council? More discussion on this topic will follow.

Parents Booth – Tailgate Party

A parent booth will be set up at the Tailgate Party next to the Alumni booth. Here parents will be able to pick up a free "CSS Parent" button as well as sign up for e-news letters. There will also be a sign-up for parents to request Parent Advisory Group information. We hope to recruit a few new members this way.

Enhancing Parent Communications

The majority of the meeting was dedicated to this topic, and it was unanimously agreed the College can improve its communication efforts to parents as well as provide parents a better way to communicate to the College as well as other parents. Here are a few suggestions that came up:

- Make parent resources easier to find on the Web, and promote them better.
- Establish a parents forum – where parents can email other parents to discuss specific topics, fears, etc.
- Establish a monthly e-news communication from the Parents Advisory Group.

- Improve Orientation for parents.
 - Becky Johnson suggested color coding important documentation from the informational documentation.
 - Make available copies of power point presentations.
 - Provide parents with an “incoming parents packet” before coming to Orientation – so they feel better prepared and can better plan their time on campus.
 - Make clear what’s available to students. Services like the College’s writing center, tutoring center, student support services, etc.
- Have an F.A.Q. on the Web site dealing specifically with parent questions / issues.
- Jennifer Gorham brought up a fun idea from St. Olaf College – “Ask Lena.” St. Olaf parent and family members can submit a question to “Ask Lena” to get an answer.

Parents Fund

Each year the College’s Institutional Advancement office solicits parents (both current parents and parents of alumni) for a donation to the Tower Fund. The Tower Fund is the College’s annual fund program, named after majestic Tower Hall, and directly benefits current students with scholarships (Benedictine is one), enhancements to academic programs, as well as library and computer resources.

Last year parents contributed nearly \$75,000.

Laura Clements volunteered to help with the Fall appeal, including having the letters signed by her, and Jennifer and Darrell Gorham have volunteered to help with and sign the “new parent” appeal letters that are mailed in late-January or early-February. Thank you all so much.

Jeanne emphasized the primary goal of the Parent Fund is participation, no matter the size of the gift.

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting date was discussed, and Jeanne suggested trying to schedule it about the time students will be returning to campus in January. Not that we won’t be working as a committee between now and then ☺. *More information to come – as we ran out of time.*

Welcome from Larry Goodwin and Del Case

President Larry Goodwin and Vice President for Institutional Advancement (Jeanne’s boss) Del Case joined our meeting to welcome everyone, thank all for volunteering to be members of our committee, and to discuss the importance of getting more parent involvement in everything the College does.

Group/Individual Photos

A 5-member group photo was taken for our Web site as well as individual photos. We will continue to take photos of our group as well as individuals (until we have all) so parents can put faces to names in our recruitment of new member efforts and all the other great work we will be doing in the future. Our Web site should be updated soon.

Next meeting date: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Thompson