 Minutes

PRESENT: Mary and Scott Bakken, Anita Greden, Dana and Joe Hackbarth, Correne Jenson, Nancy and John Kaplan, Lisa Marvin, Nancy Lane and Dave Smith, Jamie Risse, Elizabeth Simonson, Margot Zelenz, and Kathy Stockwell, recording

ABSENT: Andy and Sue Akins, Jennifer and Darrell Gorham, Becky Johnson, Jeff and Tammy Johnson, Greg Risse, Julie and Loran Shelton, Mari Sloan, Timothy and Sandra Steffan, and Denise Tourtellott.

ALSO PRESENT: Megan Perry Spears (9:30 a.m.)

Welcome and Introduce Members

- The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m., introductions were made and the minutes of April 19, 2012, were approved by consensus.
- Reserve your hotel for Homecoming early. Hotels with discounts: Holiday Inn, Fitgers, Radisson and the Country Inn and Suites.

The OneStop representative could not be here today; therefore, Elizabeth presented the OneStop materials. Kathy requested any questions the Committee had of OneStop and there were no questions. It was noted that you cannot call on the phone to OneStop and put money on your daughter’s/son’s Dining Dollar account. They transfer you all over and it is a struggle. This could be an article for the e-newsletter. The OneStop is not a switchboard.

Presentation by Megan Perry-Spears

- Megan, dean of Student Affairs, was introduced. She told us a little about herself and the Committee members introduced other Committee members.
- New things that are happening on campus—Revamp the strategic plan for the school, and we have to look at how to orientate new students. Orientation is in three parts this year to better connect the student with the community and spirit of the place. Orientation will be online through Blackboard. Welcome week is completely revamped; each student will be part of a small group called “Team Delta” (12-15 students). The students in the Team Delta group will not be with their roommates or neighbors. They will meet their RA and have a Dignitas class with a paper due before they come to campus. This is so new students get to know people who they can connect with. The minimum of students they will get to know will be 60 with the Team Delta, RA, and Dignitas class.
- Team Delta will talk about study skills, what is expected of the student and to get them connected within the College.
- How do we welcome transfer students? Transfer orientation day is being revamped. Transfer students will be invited to Welcome Week, expanding the right away programs. No Dignitas class is required for transfer students.
- Acts of Faith, by Eboo Patel is the book new students will be reading through the Dignitas class.
- An idea was brought up to have the entire wing meet and to eat together so students who did not connect have someone to sit with.
- Eating buffet style is hard on a student. This will be covered by the Team Delta.
- Hygiene is covered through Team Delta.
• Improve RAs – community builders. More one-on-one and support for the students.
• If the student does not swipe their card within a week, they will be checked on to see if anything is wrong.
• There are not many options for vegetarians.
• Food options will be welcoming and for all walks of life and religious.
• Be Bold and be Benedictine. That is the new slogan.
• Student Affairs will revise the Student Handbook.
• All policies will be audited by Student Affairs.
• Stalking policy. This policy is in place, and training is being done now regarding: dynamics of unhealthy relations.
• The Alcohol policy will be revised. There is an online course that freshmen are tested and they have to receive 80 percent.
• New program “Celebrating Seniors.” Kick off–transition and what do you want to achieve this last year.
• Megan told of how it would be nice to give every graduating student a brick and that will be the bricks and mortar of CSS. There are many places we could use the bricks. Discussion.
• Sophomores need support too; therefore, Student Affairs is working on building a sophomore program.
• Parents Weekend and Family Weekend, and Homecoming are different weekends.

Margot’s Report—Fundraising Results:
• The Science Center is a $15M expansion and the College raised $6,045,875 in gifts and pledges toward the addition. We completed the campaign 10 months ahead of schedule.
• The Center has a new 40,000 square-foot building for chemistry labs, student/faculty research labs, a new greenhouse, campus classrooms, gathering spaces, study/conference rooms, and “Beakers” coffee shop. The electrical sockets in the Benedictine Commons are behind the pillars and on the floor. It also has tunnel access to Tower and Somers.
• A total from all sources (cash-in all sources) was a record-breaking $7.5M.
• Government and Foundation giving increased almost 12 percent over last year’s record, ending at $4.5M.
• Private Giving finished just over $3M.
• Total Unrestricted (All Saints Annual Fund, MPCF, major undesignated gifts including bequests) decreased 8 percent this year from $630,212 in FY011 to $582,000 in FY2012.
• All Saints Annual Fund decreased slightly by 3 percent from $389,000 in FY 2011 to $377,700 in FY2012. Many donors gave to Science instead of to the ASAF.
• Our focus this year is on unrestricted giving to the All Saints Annual Fund.
• The Centennial year is doing great. We have the Coffee Table Book and Cookbook for sale (they were displayed).
• In January we had the Winter Celebration Weekend.
• St. John’s Bible – The Heritage Edition of the St. John’s Bible was on Campus with actives throughout the week. The College is looking into purchasing one.
• Rebecca Skloot “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” was a great success. Nearly 1,600 community members and first-year students were at Symphony Hall. The video is online.
• There have been many local, regional and national events.
• Coming up on September 10—the Ribbon Cutting; an academic procession and cake for the Centennial Birthday.
• Also coming is the concert of Sister Martina Hughes, Highway Man and Eboo Patel the speaker.
• Margot gave us a tour of the Science Center and pictures were taken.

Parents Council Achievements and News:
• The Parents Council holds three meetings at:
  ➢ the Duluth campus
  ➢ Hinckley
and the Cities.

This year they will meet at the Rochester campus instead of the Cities.

- The Council sends three e-newsletters.
- Do we want a table on Move In Day (August 31)? Yes, in Somers Lounge on Friday, August 31.
- Move In Day Social last year—65 people attended.
- Last year in the Homecoming Tent we had giveaways and coffee. The tent was a great success and this year the Council would like to add hot chocolate.
- Attendance at the Social in April was good, 25 people attended.
- Parents attended Vespers, Lighting a Traditions and the Holiday party.
- Sent ASAF appeal letter (one sent by a parent—John Kaplan).
- Sent welcome letter to all incoming freshman parents.
- Added new members to the Council this year.

E-newsletter:
- Elizabeth went over the articles in the past issues of the e-newsletter.
- Remember to tell your son or daughter this: everyone send one suggestion(s) to Kathy by August 17.
- A suggestion to join Student Affairs and combine the two e-newsletters was made. Everyone liked the idea. The Parents Council will write this e-newsletter and join Student Affairs for the remainder.
- How do new parents receive our mailings? New students are entered into the Raisers Edge and through that the parents will receive all parents’ mailings.
- Discussion was held on how to be in contact with your son/daughter, while not being overly in contact.
- Link Top 10 reasons to say no from counseling webpage.
- Reiterate study time and study habits.
- Move in Day is August 31 along with the Parents Social at Grandmas, in Canal Park, from 4-6 p.m.
- A suggestion was made that someone at the Social speak about “why they enjoy being on the Parents Council and what the Council does for the parents”—Scott Bakken.

Lunch

Open Discussion:
- At the tent for Homecoming the giveaways will be the calendar magnet, lanyards, CSS parents and CSS Grandparents buttons and the Black smudges under the eyes. Coffee and Hot chocolate will be served.
  - Mary Bakken and Lisa Marvin will work from 11 a.m.-12; John and Nancy Kaplan will work from 1-2 p.m.; Joe and Dana Hackbarth will work from 2-3 p.m. Jamie Risse will work anytime.
- Put Homecoming schedule in e-newsletter.
- The Colleges 100th birthday is September 10, which will include the ribbon cutting.
- Family Weekend (October 5-7)—we will have an inside table.
- John Kaplan will work Saturday 12-1 p.m.; Dave and Nancy will work 1-2 p.m.
- A suggestion was made to have a sign “Come Ask Us A Question” by our welcome sign. Also, have chocolates.

Fundraising Letters/Open Discussion:
- Parents gave a total of $105,744 compared to $96,555 last year. This is a 9.5 percent increase and 780 donors gave.
- A suggestion and discussion was held that maybe the parents could buy the St. Johns Bible for the College. Maybe the Duluth Diocese would like to go in on it.
- Discussion was held regarding parents and jobs. Internships, who is willing to host a student internship.
- The Councils next meeting will be held the first Saturday of December in Hinckley. A suggestion was made to meet in the afternoon on Vespers day. It is an idea. Send e-mail.
- John Kaplan brought to the Committees attention regarding a tour guide who did not represent the College in a professional nice way.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Kathy Stockwell