CAL POLY PARENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
Sunday, October 22, 2006  
University Union, Room 220  
Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

MINUTES

ATTENDING  
Council Members – Paul Bittick, John Cotter, Ed Czisny, Maxine Czisny, Barbara Damerel, Melanie Dreike, Nancy Gragnani, Theresa Hendrix (alumni liaison), Matt Howard (student member) John Jernigan, Karen Jernigan, Patti Pasetta, Pat Patubo, Chris Patubo, Bob Rivoire, Dan Rivoire (student member) Frances Rivoire, Thanos Trezos, Carolyn Thom, Terri Whitt, Ross Whitt

Parent Guests:  
Rob and Cynthia Boriskin, Yvonne Chavez, Sue Ann Donohoe, John Jones, Jeff Kreps, and Pat Saley

Staff – Bob Kitamura, Cornel Morton, Nicky Nickelsen and Theresa Rush

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS  
Paul Bittick called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. He welcomed council members, acknowledged parent visitors attending to observe and led introductions.

Ira and Connie Katz were unable to attend as Ira was recently diagnosed with cancer and is under going treatment. Everyone was asked to keep Ira and Connie in their thoughts. A get well card was routed. In addition, members were asked to contact Nicky if their students can assist Peter, Ira and Connie’s son, with rides home to Soledad on the weekends.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING  
A motion to approve the minutes from the summer meeting was made by Nancy Gragnani. The minutes were approved.

UNIVERSITY UPDATE  
Cornel thanked members and guests for attending, acknowledging their choice to spend their personal time in service to Cal Poly.

Cornel announced that the fall quarter is underway with a record number of new students – approximately 3,900 enrolled. Cal Poly continues to be an attractive choice for new students. Currently there is almost $300 million in construction underway as we expand programs to meet increasing enrollment and to maintain our low faculty to student ratio. The construction of Poly Canyon Village – the 2,700 bed residential facility - is underway with the first phase to open in 2008. A site near graphic arts was recently cleared for a new construction management building. The engineering complex adjacent to the library is coming along quickly. The first phase of the renovation of Spanos Stadium is also near completion.

Unfortunately, the excitement and anticipation of these first few weeks have been met with tragedy and sorrow. Cal Poly lost five students over the past summer and early fall, who passed away here or near home. One was suffering a long-term illness; the others were involved in accidents of various sorts. Parents are dealing with the unthinkable in coping with the loss their student. And staff and students are feeling the loss of friends, classmates and students. Counseling is available to all students at Counseling Services.
Strategic Planning
The Division of Student Affairs recently held its annual retreat. Student Affairs leaders from UCLA and CSU Monterey Bay spoke about leadership and practical approaches for encouraging student learning and success. The director or coordinator for each Student Affairs Department reviewed implementation and discussed assessment of our strategic plan objectives which were recently set through the year 2010.

On the second day of the retreat, a student panel was invited to provide interesting impromptu insights into their academic, co-curricular and social experiences at Cal Poly. The panel discussion was offered as part of our review of "My Freshman Year" a book written by a professor of anthropology who, after 15 years of teaching at a large university became baffled by her students' classroom behavior, and decided to apply to her university as a freshmen, attend orientation, move into the residence halls and enroll in classes to observe and better understand the undergraduate culture.

Facilitating Graduation
Cornel reported that the CSU has complied resources to assist elementary and high school students in planning and preparing for college. Other programs are under discussion. Cornel distributed a poster called “How to Get to College”, a step-by-step guide to preparing for the CSU.

Alcohol Education
Cornel updated the Council on the Alchol.edu program. Three different products were tested. Two hundred and fifty students took one of the three courses. We are currently in the second phase of the classes and will conduct focus group follow-ups next quarter.

Carolyn Thom and Barbara Damerele: Both were impressed with the Alcohol Education Session that was offered during Parents’ Weekend.

Terri Whitt: Terri inquired if graduate students will be participating. Cornel indicated the pilot is focused on new undergraduate students.

Thanos: Thanos advised standing behind your student to support and encourage them to graduate in four years. It can be done in most programs.

PARENT PRESENTER – THANOS TREZOS
“Energy Use and Conservation in California”
Thanos Trezos, who is an employed as a senior environmental engineer at Southern California Edison Company, presented on energy use, conservation and safety in California.

Thanos provided an overview of the major historical events that brought power to California. In July of 1886, electricity lit the streets of Visalia. With the siting of the Hoover Dam and the creation of the hydro power market, the construction of the pacific intertie began. Rapid growth after World War II increased the demand for energy. Repeated oil crises prompted the development of alternative and renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind and geothermal power. Renewable energy now comprises 20% of our energy mix.

Three major private companies currently provide California’s electric energy: PG& E; Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric. A private energy utility makes money from the return on its preauthorized investments, not on the rates charged for power. The rates are set by the State such that the utility collects the return on its investments.
Thanos shared a chart comparing the cost of his utilities (power, water, gas and trash) to the consumer price index over a period of 20 years. Gas was the highest, followed by water, power and trash.

Thanos reviewed customer programs offered by So. Cal. Edison to help reduce the electric bill. These include a medical baseline program, the CARE/ERA program for low-income families and energy-efficiency programs for customers who reduce their energy usage.

He also reviewed rebate and incentive programs for the replacement of old appliances and/or the purchase of energy efficient appliances. So. Cal. Edison also offers a residential Summer Discount Plan which includes the installation of a device on the A/C that allows SCE to turn off the A/C when energy supplies are low. To enroll, call 800-684-8123. There are also programs to help pay the electric bill including an energy assistance fund and a level pay plan. So. Cal. Edison offers direct payment or a pay-by-phone option. Contact PG&E or San Diego Gas & Electric for similar programs or assistance. Your college student may qualify.

Safety is key to day-to-day usage and when outages occur. Stay safe by following these tips:
- Have a flash light and a rotary phone on hand.
- Be sure you are able to open your garage door manually so you can leave home if necessary.
- Beware of imposters.
- Do not overload circuits
- Use ground fault interrupters
- Call USA before you dig
- Assume that every power line is energized
- Keep kites, balloons, trees and pets away from lines
- Beware of possible electrical fires
- Report street lighting problems.

Thanos provided a brochure called “Facts and Information about Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant” as well as safety tips and an emergency preparedness mailer all residents receive annually from PG & E. The mailer includes evacuation areas and protocol for local residents including the Cal Poly campus.

FEMA is also responsible for emergency response. However, rather than rely solely on the federal or State government, it is a good idea to be prepared and have a communication plan for the entire family. Be sure to know the full names and contact information for your student’s roommates.

**STAFF PRESENTER – BOB KITAMURA**
“Energy and Sustainability at Cal Poly”
Bob Kitamura, architect and director of facilities planning and capital projects was introduced to speak about energy and sustainability at Cal Poly. Facilities Planning & Capital Projects provides the management for programming, planning, architecture, engineering and construction of new or remodeled major capital project in support of the university’s academic mission.

Bob thanked the Council members for their attention and began by indicating that Cal Poly has a high commitment to sustainability.
Bob distributed the 2006 Biennial Progress Report on Sustainability in Facilities and Operations at Cal Poly. The purpose of the report is to quantify and track Cal Poly’s movement toward a “greener” campus. It is supported by Cal Poly’s Master Plan, which includes a statement of core values calling for the development of an environmentally responsible campus. According to the progress report, “Efforts are underway to reduce reliance on automobile commuting, to promote energy and water conservation, to recycle solid waste and to incorporate “green” products and practices in new buildings and campus operations.”

Cal Poly uses five key indicators to measure progress related to sustainability. These indicators are categorized as follows: energy use, transportation, water resources, solid waste and recycling, and land use and development.

Bob explained efforts to reduce energy usage. Although the state receives grants and programs to reduce energy, it does get more and more difficult to reduce energy. Still it is a priority. The CSU set a goal of reducing energy use by 15% between 1999 and 2005. Cal Poly reached a savings of 13% by 2003; however, energy expenditure per square foot has increased slightly with the opening of the Cerro Visa residential apartments.

The CSU’s new goal of an additional 15% reduction by 2010 will be complicated by the construction of Poly Canyon Village, which will provide 2,700 new beds. This project will; however, incorporate a co-generation plant which will produce electricity on site by burning natural gas. The resulting waste heat will produce all the hot water in the complex. Since housing takes a lot of energy – more so than classroom space – the campus is attempting reduce energy in other ways. The 1999 Utilidor Project, which changed how the campus is heated and cooled, reduced the campus use of natural gas by 30%.

Bob mentioned the Poly Canyon project is also LEED certified. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.

Cal Poly’s Master Plan calls for a 25% reduction in commuter automobile trips. By building more campus housing, reducing parking spaces, increasing the cost of parking and encouraging commuters use alternatives, the campus is meeting this goal. Faculty, staff and students ride the SLO transit free of charge. The campus is working on more shuttle programs to increase the efficiency of public transportation. The campus is also increasing the number of its vehicles which operate on electricity or natural gas.

Cal Poly gets all of its domestic water from a reservoir nearby which it partially owns. Its construction was a partnership with the City of SLO and the Men’s Colony. Water is piped from the city and treated by the city. Because it fills irregularly water conservation is important. Residents in campus housing are large consumers of water. Cal Poly monitors water quality, including “point” and “non-point” sources of pollution to our creeks. The College of Agriculture is involved with this program.

Most campus solid waste is recycled or reused. Building contracts require that a significant portion of construction materials be recycled. One of the largest sources of solid waste is manure, which is composted and sold as fertilizer as part of an enterprise operation.

Cal Poly stewards nearly 10,000 acres of land. New development is a part of the campus plan as the University plans for an increase in student body and as it attempts to attract professionals.
to the area to teach. Bella Montana is faculty and staff housing located on Highland Drive and Highway 1. The units are an average of $350,000 and Phase 1 will be completed by December 2006. Since the average median cost of a home in San Luis Obispo is $650,000, it is getting more difficult to attract professionals to the area to fill positions left by the large number of retiring faculty and staff. Other projects underway are the Alex G. Spanos Stadium, the Bonderson Projects Center, Engineering IV, Housing Administration, EDES south (construction management) and Poly Canyon Village.

The main obstacle for adding additional sustainable items to capital projects is funding. Generally, during the life of a building, capital costs account for 10% and operational costs account for 90% of the overall funds spent on a building.

Patti Pasetta: Patti suggested offering a shuttle to transport students to classes located on the outside perimeters of campus (agriculture classes). The University has discussed shuttle programs; the variation in the number and time of trips is complicating the feasibility of a program.

A question was raised about parking. Bob indicated Poly Canyon Village will include parking structures. However students, faculty and staff are encouraged to use alternative transportation and the campus is working with the city to improve shuttle and mass transit options, especially to and from the downtown area.

A question was raised about the level of access to Poly Canyon and potential traffic congestion. Bob explained there are three access points to campus: Grand Avenue; California Blvd. and Highland Avenue. Each campus access point will provide access to Poly Canyon. As a part of the campus master plan, Perimeter Road will be closed to vehicular traffic in the future to allow for better pedestrian access.

NEW BUSINESS
Paul Bittick directed the guests’ attention to the blue Prospective Member Questionnaire and asked those guests in attendance to complete the questionnaire and return it to the Parent Program by the end of November. The purpose of the questionnaire is to help staff get to know interested folks better and to determine your level of interest in being appointed to the Council. The questionnaire is compiled from questions submitted by current Council members. New members are appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs when seats are available. Attention is given to geographic representation, college representation and answers to the questions. Paul thanked the guests for their attention to completing the questionnaire.

Eligible members were asked to begin considering the opportunity to serve the Parent Council in a leadership capacity. Leaders serve one term as Vice Chair and one term as Chair. Eligible members will be mailed a questionnaire. Interested members should complete the questionnaire. A committee of five Council members will review the questionnaires and make a recommendation or recommendations to the Vice President for Student Affairs, who will appoint the next Vice Chair. Completed questionnaires are due at the winter meeting. The new Vice Chair will be announced at the spring meeting.

Alumni Liaison Update – Theresa Hendrix
Theresa indicated that she shared information discussed at past Parent Council meetings with the members of the CPAA board, which met on Friday. She also shared with them the number Parents’ Weekend guests in attendance. They were pleased to hear about the increased parent participation.
During the CPAA board meeting, members of Poly Reps – the student volunteers who provide tours of campus and admissions presentations - spoke about their desire to start a student alumni chapter. Since they are well connected with Cal Poly, they are likely to be leaders in their alumni chapter after graduation and would like to develop a group that stays in touch and grows year to year.

Within the next several quarters, the Alumni Relations Office will be launching an “online community” to serve Cal Poly alumni. The service will allow alums to manage their own online Web page and view the pages of other alums. They hope the service will enable people to connect with lost friends, stay in touch and network. The program also offers other functions including a function to manage alumni events.

Parent Program Update
Nicky Nickelsen reviewed the Parent Program’s strategic plan objectives for the next five years. These objectives are included in the Student Affairs Strategic Plan just released.

With these objectives in mind, and given the program’s staffing levels and increased parent involvement, Nicky asked the Parent Advisory Council to provide feedback regarding which programs are most important to them. This feedback will be helpful in prioritizing programs.

Carolyn Thom: Considering researching what other CSU’s offer parents.

John Cotter: John feels the Parent Program should provide assistance to parents as they support their students during different phrases of their college careers. He also suggested providing to the Parent Council members the email addresses of parents in their local area so they could communicate with them on a regular basis.

Due to the University’s strict policy restricting the sharing and use of information, the Parent Program is no longer able to provide lists of e-mail addresses for Cal Poly parents to volunteers for any purpose. In addition, the University is unable to minimize the potential threat of viruses if information is sent from personal computers. By posting the Council members’ email addresses online, all Council members are accessible to parents who choose to write them.

Future Topics
Frances Rivoire: Frances suggested asking a member of the faculty to speak. She also suggested a session on the economics of education relative to a students’ financial future.

Carolyn Thom suggested a session on helping students choose the right major and preparing them for different careers.

Theresa Rush: Theresa mentioned that her son used Career Services before he graduated. Career Services is a great resource for the student. Her son is working at Boeing in Seattle.

Bob Rivoire: Bob suggested discussions about bike helmets, landlord behavior and alcohol service during the Homecoming BBQ.

Cornel Morton: Although Cal Poly is a dry campus, there are events where permission to sell alcohol is allowed provided regulations for doing so are followed.

MEMBER RECOGNITION
Paul acknowledged and congratulated Thanos Trezos and Carolyn Thom for completing their three-year term. Thanos and Carolyn were presented with plaques acknowledging their service.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT
The next meeting will be held in February 2007. Council members are asked to respond regarding their preference of meeting dates by e-mail. Paul Bittick adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m. Please forward additions or corrections to calpolyparent@calpoly.edu. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicky Nickelsen and Theresa Rush