

**CSU, Chico Parent Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Saturday, October 11, 2008
Selvester's Faculty and Staff Dining Room**

I. Call to Order

Bob Combs, Parent Advisory Council President, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

II. Welcome and Introductions:

Present: Bob Combs, Rosey Parks, Joan Burgren, Drew Calandrella, Kathleen Collins, Dr. Diana Coyl, Ellen Eggens, Art Eggens, Richard Ellison, Carla Garbis, Michelle Glasman, Brad Glasman, Mike Gross, Lisa McCann, Paul McCann, Marc Monachello, Tim Orlando, Rob Roy, Jane Strasburg, Terrie Snow, Peter Turner

Absent: Lance Friesz, Linda Friesz, Kathy Jura Anthony, Teresa Peters, Robert Storer

Guests: Paul J. Zingg, University President and Cathy Felix, Director of Student Health Services

Staff: Susan Anderson, Polly Crabtree

III. President Paul J. Zingg Report

President Paul Zingg started by thanking those in attendance for being a part of the Parent Advisory Council. More and more institutions are embracing the idea of having a parent council, which is a good thing as parents offer the University a different, but important, perspective for looking at programs and services offered to the campus community.

The state is represented by this institution. Eighty percent of our student population comes from outside the North State. It is nice to see our Parent Advisory Council reflects this. We aim to align everything we do programmatically and environmentally with our goals and values. When our students choose to attend Chico State, we hope they will also respect our values of sustainability, mutual respect, and civility.

Good things are happening here on campus. The first is the Forbes Magazine survey looking at the earning power of alumni. Chico ranked 23rd in the nation, and 3rd in the system behind Cal Poly SLO and San Jose State. This is a comprehensive University; our students are smart, and they get smarter with us. Our students are social and work well in teams resulting in recruiters valuing our students.

The second good thing is campus participation in the Learning Assessment Survey. Students are assessed as freshmen, and again as seniors. Seniors at Chico State ranked in the 99th percentile for all those participating in the assessment.

Challenges on campus include our State budget. Chico is currently underfunded by almost 700 students, and we are anticipating a mid-year budget cut. Still, we will not turn any students away, and our values will continue to dominate how we do things here.

There was a rape on campus and two student deaths; the rape was a heinous crime and the deaths were tragedies. There have been seven student deaths in the past eight years, and students, organizations, and the campus community are working hard to make the University a safer, more caring, cleaner place. We have had some tragedies, but we are committed to becoming ever more vigilant in making this a better place.

Question to President Zingg: A councilmember's son is contemplating leaving Chico State, and one of the reasons for his departure is tied into safety.

President Zingg: Students with concerns should seek out folks on campus for help. The counseling center, student health, and other advising options are available to provide assistance to students. This student is a first year student who was unable to secure campus housing – a situation which has likely played into his feelings of disconnectedness. Our campus goal is to be in the position within four years to house all first-year students. We still need to acquire some properties on the west-side of campus to fulfill this goal. We also cannot underestimate the programming capabilities and resources that will be provided by the Wildcat Recreation Center. There is a unique tie between the campus and city police departments. Our police departments have mutual assistance response agreements and train together to handle emergency situations.

IV. Tour of Wildcat Recreation Center

The Parent Advisory Council was led on a tour of the Wildcat Recreation Center. The WREC is currently ahead of production schedule and under budget. Anticipated opening is in spring 2009. Until usage patterns can be established, it is anticipated that only students will be using the center (faculty and staff may be able to pay the same fee as students to use some aspects of the center, but that has not yet been determined).

V. Vice President for University Advancement Richard Ellison Report

University Advancement includes alumni and parent relations, development, public affairs, and creative services. The other divisions on campus include student affairs, academic affairs, and business and finance.

Many of our Parent Advisory Council parents volunteered to help with admissions yield receptions and summer send-off events. This role of parents is critical to our success; parents help tell the true story of Chico State and share the Chico Experience. In fundraising, our parents are very loyal and generous, giving \$300,000 to \$450,000 per year in primarily small to moderate-sized gifts. Parent contact information is provided by students who complete University Emergency Information (UEI) forms. We have more than 17,000 students on campus, but we only have contact information for 7,300 parents. Our fundraising effort would be greatly improved with better data collection.

Fundraising efforts for this year are being kicked off with a postcard that has been sent to parents letting parents know our student callers from our Calling Center will be contacting them in the coming weeks. All phone calls are made by Chico State students. University Advancement will also be using electronic “e-solicitations” in the coming months to help with University fundraising efforts.

VI. Vice President for Student Affairs Drew Calandrella Report

If it happens outside the classroom, and it involves students, it takes place in the arena of student affairs. Student Affairs includes: counseling, disabled student support, Associated Students, financial aid, EOP, tutoring services, housing and food service, alcohol and drug education programs, diversity programs, career planning and counseling, judicial affairs, and health services. Almost all of these programs are housed in the now open Student Services Center. Along with admissions, advising, and other student services, the Student Services Center serves as a one-stop shop for all nonacademic student activity. This building achieved a LEEDS Gold certification.

A real measure of the building’s utility was evident on Friday, October 10. On a Friday afternoon (traditionally a slow time for campus), the building was full, and in use. We are happiest with the high volume usage of the Student Learning Center. This institution will challenge students with a high level of academic rigor, and it is reassuring to see students availing themselves of the tools available to help them be successful.

We are also eagerly awaiting the opening of the Wildcat Recreation Center. This facility will change the whole demeanor of campus. It’s how students will interact with one another and it will add greatly to the social face of campus. Students voted to not charge themselves the WREC fee until the facility is open. Starting in fall 2009, students will pay \$175 per semester to use the center. This building is currently projecting a LEEDS Silver rating.

Sutter Hall, the new housing facility, is under construction. The pilings are in, and the building is still on track for a fall 2009 opening. The facility will include state of the art dining facilities, and 230 residence hall beds. This building has been designed to receive a LEEDS Silver rating, which is very impressive considering it is a dining facility.

The budget situation is a concern for Student Affairs, but the division is looking to create a right-size balance between the number of students and resources available.

Question from the PAC Faculty Adviser: Can we provide the Parent Advisory Council with a Student Services Center directory?

Directory access is available online at <http://www.csuchico.edu/directory/> for all campus departments (scroll down to the department listing).

VII. Student Health Services Presentation from Cathy Felix, Director

Cathy Felix provided the council with a Power Point presentation and a handout of services provided by the Student Health Center. The Student Health Center provides on

general medical care. The Health Center is open Monday – Friday with medical services provided by a staff of health care professionals. Services are available during intersession and summer by paying a small per visit fee.

Comment: A student was able to purchase an over-the-counter medication at the Health Center pharmacy at a heavily discounted rate.

Cathy Felix: The pharmacist is looking to provide common over-the-counter medications at affordable prices and in some cases for free.

Question: Can my son get his prescription from hometown physician filled at the Health Center pharmacy?

Cathy Felix: The student will be required to see a health center professional first. If the prescription is deemed necessary, it can then be filled at the campus pharmacy.

Question: Does the Student health Center hire student assistants? If so, is there a concern with confidentiality?

Cathy Felix: There are four student assistants now working in the health center. Students all sign confidentiality agreements. Peer-to-peer advice to seek medical care is sometimes more effective than adult-to-student advice. And it is great for students interested in the medical profession to get hands on experience.

VIII. Round Table Discussion

Question: What are we supposed to do between this meeting and the next?

Bob Combs: Post-meeting, we will send information to the council on how parents can stay involved with the University. In the meantime, be ambassadors for the University. When you tell people that your son or daughter is going to school at Chico, you often hear in response, “Chico is a party school.” Chico isn’t a party school; it is a great institution of higher education with academic rigor. There are definitely social aspects to the University, but the University really is so much more than that.

Question: We have spent a lot of time today hearing reports, and not enough time serving in an advisory capacity. If we are truly an advisory council, shouldn’t we be spending 2 hours and 45 minutes advising, and 15 minutes hearing reports instead of the other way around?

Polly Crabtree: We do want to provide more time for parents to operate in an advisory capacity. It is important, though, for parents to be informed and have a good understanding of what is happening at the University. For the March meeting, we will look at the format and ensure there is more time built in for the advising function to occur. Timing is a challenge for the October meeting with all the Parent Weekend events taking place.

Question: It is important for parents that we keep the October meeting on the same weekend as Family Weekend. Perhaps to ensure there is enough time to cover everything, we move the meeting to Sunday?

Bob Combs: The council is still new, so we will continue to evolve. All input is welcome, so if anyone has questions or concerns, get them to Polly Crabtree or Susan Anderson.

More discussion took place regarding dissatisfied student situation. Some suggestions from the council:

- Housing needs to provide distinguishing information on University Village so parents have a clear understanding of both the limitations and the benefits associated with living there.
- Housing space does become available after the start of the semester. Perhaps PAC member could explore moving her son on campus for the remainder of the semester.
- There is a significant gap between the number of first-year students and the number of beds available. Is a goal of 4 years to close this gap acceptable?
- Housing needs to do a better job of making parents understand the numbers game involved in securing housing. How far down on the waiting list actually makes it into housing?
- Share the good information on campus as significantly as we share the bad. Something fantastic happens make a point of sending an e-mail to students to let them know. Balance the scary with the exciting.

Bob Combs: Housing questions and concerns are a major concern. We will see if we can bring David Stephen from housing to our March meeting.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Bob Combs at 6:15 p.m.

A PAC member resigned from the Parent Advisory Council following the meeting. The group did not meet his expectations.

The next meeting will be held on the Chico State campus on Saturday, March 7, 2009.