

**METHODIST UNIVERSITY**  
**Parents Association**  
**October 18, 2008 meeting**

Kim Genova, Director of Parent Programs, called the meeting to order.

Copies of the Constitution and By-Laws was distributed to attendees to be reviewed and approved.

The need for parent association officers was identified and requested. These parents stepped forward and volunteered their services in the following roles:

Scott Sawyer - President  
Donna Muller – Vice-president  
Duane Beck – Vice President  
Sherri Davila – Secretary

These parents volunteered to be members of the Parent Advisory council: Bruce Novozinsky, Bonnie Kuzbyt, Barbara Dodd, Mark and Debby Arnold, Joe Hart, Sharmine Ramnath, Tracy McFee, and Brenda Drerenberger.

Kim Genova made introduction of several Methodist staff members in attendance including George Blanche who addressed the group. Mr. Blanche led a concerns and questions session with the parents. He emphasized that “Parent’s involvement is essential to our students’ success”. He also emphasized the need for this university to have an active parent’s association with a collective voice and for parents to “protect their investment”.

One concern addressed during this initial meeting was the problem of mold in the dorms. Mr. Blanche assured the association that the university has been very actively working to correct the problem and that all the mold had been removed. Much of the mold had been found around the air conditioning units and Residence Advisors had been instructed to check rooms to insure that students were not placing clothes under the vents. Students had also been encouraged to put in a maintenance order if he/she did not feel comfortable that the mold had been removed. Students were to be given a contract to sign and parents would be notified. The manufacturer of the air conditioning units had also been contacted for their assistance in resolving the problem.

Other concerns addressed and discussed were as follows:

Question was raised about the handling of bugs or other insects in the buildings. Sterile Tech handles exterminating for the university and reportedly comes in weekly.

Residence Hall problems – the protocol for reporting a problem was explained. A report should be made to the hall advisor with an order being placed on MC Net by the student.

Re the Monarch Card, it was asked if extra monies could be placed on that card so that the card could be used in lieu of money. Kim Genova shared that she would research this as an option. Parents also expressed interest in having excess funds rolled over into their student's card. Association members were advised that excess funds can be rolled over into the next semester.

Re: weekend activities.

Questions were raised as to what activities were available to students during the weekend and if there was any transportation assistance to get students off campus during the weekend. Members were advised that the university does have activities set up on the weekends and that these activities are posted throughout campus as well as on the website. However, students have not shown good participation in these activities. There were also questions raised about transportation to and from the airport to help get students from out of state as well as international students home for holidays. Kim Genova volunteered to generate a proposal that will be submitted to the association and parents that will particularly address the transportation needs to get students back and forth to airports during the holidays. Staff shared that there is some bus service to get to other parts of Fayetteville from the university. There was also discussion of generating a survey to students to see what kind of activities they would like to have planned for the weekends. It was reported that about 300 students stay on campus during the weekends.

Question was raised as to the operating hours of the fitness center during the weekend. The Nimicks Center stays open until 10:00 p.m. The director of the center was present and advised that as part of his program, students are taken on outings during the holidays.

It was suggested that the Lion's Den should be opened on the weekend as a gathering place for students. Members were told that Chris' House is open on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Re: the FYE program

Concern was expressed that students in this program were reporting that there had been very little activity and no postings of what programs were being offered. Kim Genova will share this concern with Graham Peters who is in charge of this program.

Re: FERPA form

Parents were strongly encouraged to make sure that their student signs this form in order for them (the parent/parents) to be able to student information from the school be made accessible to them.

Parents were also informed of the student email connection "the Roar" and advised of how parents can get connected.

The incoming president Scott Sawyer was asked if he would like to address the association. Scott shared that he was looking forward to working with the association.

He strongly encouraged parent involvement and the sharing of ideas and concerns so that we as a team can enhance our students' lives at Methodist University.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Davila  
Secretary