Call to Order:
Association President Katie Rommel-Esham called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM. She welcomed everyone and asked all to introduce themselves. Other members present were Melissa Rinn, Karen Reed, Melissa Jarkowski, Nancy Schmeichael, Louis Delisio, Joe Vincent, and Richard Yeager. University Administrators present were Kathy Woughter, Vice President for Student Affairs; Giovina Lloyd, Vice President for Business and Finance; and Bonnie Dungan, Director of Summer and Parent Programs.

Parents Association President’s Report:
Katie thanked everyone for coming and introduced Bonnie Dungan as the new Director of Summer and Parent Programs since Melody McLay’s retirement in April. Bonnie thanked Katie for her kind words and sharing with the board a bit of her history with AU and the different hats she wears. Katie then commented on the Parent-2-Parent Yahoo group and the concerns/conversations that were circulating and that these conversations are one of the ways we will decide who from the University administration we will ask to come and share information with the Board. She discussed that last spring due to the changes in meal plans and dining options, the Director of Dining Services, John Dietrich, was invited to explain these changes. Based on the topics that have surfaced she indicated that we have invited our Vice President for Business and Finance, Giovina Lloyd to address these issues. She then shared comments with regards to Orientation. Check-in from what everyone was hearing went very well in the new facility and felt it was a huge success. She then said that if anyone did not get a copy of the Parents Handbook which was distributed at check-in, there were copies on the table as you entered the room for the meeting; please take one as it is full of useful information.

Katie then introduced Giovina to speak about the renovations that took place not only for this past summer but what the plan is and what is on the schedule for the next few years.

Vice President for Business and Finance Report:
Giovina spoke about the renovations that have taken place for example, this summer 12 units within the Ford Street Apartments had complete renovations done to the kitchens and bathrooms from ceiling to floor and next summer 12 more units will be completed. All of the front doors of the Ford Street apartments have new front doors (white doors with a window pane vs. the all steel doors), each apartment has a sprinkler system and an upgraded fire alarm system (she noted that the Village Fire Department indicated that of all “false” alarms that go off, most of them are from Ford Street). In Pine Hill, over the past three summers, three suite buildings have had bathrooms renovated and four suite buildings have had bathroom, flooring, furniture and new refrigerators added. There is also a plan in place for the Pine Hill Suites to receive new windows.

Other renovations to residence halls: a new boiler in one Pine Hill Suite building as well as in Reimer and Openhym; typically can only do one per year. Reimer also had new flooring in the hallways (all 4 floors) and some of the porches to the Special Interest Houses were upgraded. Paving was upgraded on campus between upper and lower Pine Hill Suites with new curbing and new lighting is in progress at this time in this area to make it brighter, more energy efficient and a nicer pathway. Also, an off campus residence was renovated into student housing for graduate students and the University is looking at another off campus location for possible another Special Interest Housing location.

In the future we are looking to have all residence halls sprinkled and each summer we look to add flooring and new furniture to a residence hall, suite, or special interest house. She indicated that the list goes through the year 2020 but it is not set in stone. Ceilings need to be addressed from time to time; balance safety, comfort and infrastructure all need addressing and we are constantly looking at all of these issues. Half, if not more of the budget goes to residential (large projects) and the hope is to do them every-other year (cost ~3/4 million for renovations). A question was asked if the Reimer bathrooms were on the list. Giovina indicated that one of the balances they must make comes down to dollars and need; bathrooms are an expensive project. 2016 is
when it is on the list to be completed. It also must be ADA compliant which of course we do but also ups the cost of the renovation. Giovina stated that she walks through the halls a couple of times a year; she went into Openhym with pad and pen and made notes of what needs to be done and updates the renovation list as needed. Giovina asked parents to encourage their student to utilize the University’s workorder system because we can’t fix something we are unaware of.

Other renovations done on campus: Both dining halls have been renovated over last two years; gallery space redone; Perlman redone several years ago. Giovina noted that Alfred is not unique to work being done and ever on-going. College campuses are always “torn up” for renovations and/or new constructions, etc.

Custodial Issues: Giovina indicated that we are in “Phase II” with our custodial staff. There was a major change in our custodial staff in March; spoke about changes that are being implemented such as having a check-list for custodial staff members to look at. We do have that as well as expectations listed and have a work book per area. Accountability is definitely what the new supervisor is putting into place. He has taken a look at what was there and has tweaked it for the halls and is making staff complete and turn in paper copies of the checklist to the supervisor so he has documentation as to what has been completed that shift. The new supervisor comes from health care background with fresh eyes and is implementing new training for the staff. Since March, at least 1/3 of the custodial staff are new. The plan is to pair up the new staff with seasoned staff shadowing what is expected to be done. Some new ideas that they are toying with is to have the custodial staff go into common areas within the suites and apartments during the winter break to have a thorough cleaning during. She then explained the usage over the summer which makes it difficult due to what locations are being used and the short time turnaround from summer housing to fall housing. She and the custodial staff are looking at what can be done to provide staff time for the deep cleaning in spaces. While the custodial supervisor is not a direct report to her, she has set it up to meet with him monthly to see how he’s doing, discuss any issues he has, areas where he needs help or concerns he has, etc. to make sure he has the resources he needs as this is an issue she cares a great deal about.

Katie commented that the suite renovations were great! Richard Yeager asked the question if it would be possible to put these renovation plans on the website and if updates could be added so families know that work is being done. Joe Vincent agreed to it being very helpful if these renovations could be added to the website. Giovina indicated that she would look into this as a possibility.

Vice President for Student Affairs Report:
Kathy Woughter, Vice President for Student Affairs asked for time sake if she could share her comments to the Parents Association meeting immediately following this meeting and it was agreed by all.

Much discussion ensued with regards to the University’s website and the difficulty some were having navigating throughout, trying to find answers to questions, links are not there; same link somewhere but can’t remember where to find it, the website is pretty and there is a lot of information there but difficult to get to. Pictures of the residence halls via Facebook were of great help. Kathy Woughter indicated that the Web team is meeting to help revamp the overall site as they are definitely aware of issues and are taking steps to work through them so you will see changes but unfortunately as with most things, resources (lack of staffing and funding) cause delays.

Wi-Fi connections were also discussed and it was suggested to have Gary Roberts, Director if ITS, attend our next meeting to share with parents updates on the infrastructure for wireless connections.

Cell service was also discussed; very poor service if you have anything other than Verizon or ATT. T-Mobile and Sprint don’t work well; parents are reluctant to purchase a new plan once they get here so it would be helpful for future if it was mentioned prior to arrival what cell service works in the area so parents can make that decision early.

Questions were then fielded:
Q: If a student wants Ping-Pong equipment who do they go to?
A: Kathy Woughter indicated that the student should seek out their Residence Life staff for equipment and if equipment was needed, there are funds there to purchase equipment.

Q: Are there any plans to increase/add parking lots to campus?
A: Kathy Woughter responded that currently there is nothing in the plans for new lots but there is a “free lot” up on “Frat Row” up by Joel’s House. It is gravel and there are no plans to pave it however it can be used by students at no cost (no need for parking pass). Also the Observatory has parking available. Kathy indicated that she walks around campus quite frequently
to see what’s available and noticing in comparison to the last few years there are vacant spaces in these locations (Free Lot and Observatory). Also she noted that approximately 300 new spaces were added to campus with Joel’s and Ann’s House lots along with the Free Lot and Observatory lot.

Katie thanked Kathy and Giovina for their participation and then encouraged everyone to attend the Parents Association Meeting immediately following as President Edmondson will be there to welcome everyone, updates will be shared and questions from where the ATM’s are on campus to commencement in the spring are typically asked.

Adjournment:
Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 AM